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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

38
MAY

$1.50

HIGH SOCIETY

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CREATOR WRITER/ARTIST/LETTERER
PRODUCER/DIRECTOR
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Dave and Deni met December 16, 1976.
They married October 6, 1978.
Separated August 20, 1983.
Divorced August 1986.

All ads, contests, contact information
in the letters, ads and archive pages are null and void!
IT'S, LIKE, 30 YEARS AGO, EH?

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Photo by William C. Johnson

A Note from the Publisher

A funny thing happened this month. While Dave and I were working our you-know-whats off getting this issue together, someone down in the United States was selling counterfeit Cerebus # 1's to anyone who was willing to overlook the fact that they were going for only $25 a book. This in the same week that Harry Kremer of Now and Then Books sold a mint Cerebus # 1 for $250.00. It kinda makes me wonder at the business I've gotten into.

This enterprising person, went out and sold some pretty good imitations of the original Cerebus # 1 in such diverse places as San Francisco, Dallas, and New York City. It was all done (pretty much) on one week-end, and sold primarily in comic shops. While my phone didn't stop ringing for three days straight and Dave and I were interviewed by newspapers from Los Angeles and San Francisco, I would have traded in the publicity to insure that this sort of thing had never happened. Somehow, it cheapens the whole idea of what comics are about.I thought that people who read Cerebus were the kind who would understand what this does to a creator. True, we didn't lose any actual money over the deal, but it doesn't exactly restore any of my faith in fans. I spent a couple of days trying to figure out if the negatives could have been stolen (they weren't) or if I had made some stats available to the wrong people (I don't think I did). I know that a lot of people will think that Dave will consider this event as some kind of compliment. I want you to know that we don't see it this way at all. It's no compliment to know that someone thought it was OK to forge what you had worked so hard to accomplish and then sell it to unsuspecting fans. True, I think that we are all guilty from time to time of a little too much greed. What else would explain the fact that so many people bought them at what was obviously a ridiculously low price.

One thing that bothers me is that, for all I know, I met this guy at a convention some time and he told me how much he liked the book. At the same time it was good to hear from the people who cared about what this meant to us. I would like to thank all the people who let us know what was going on, and who expressed their outrage at this happening at all. I appreciate your concern for us and your outrage on our behalf.

But do me a favour . . . the next time someone offers you a book at a price that is too good to be true (and I have heard rumours to the effect that Fantasy Quarterly is being counterfeited too), whether it be a Cerebus or whatever, believe that *it is* too good to be true and turn it down.

If these people have no market to sell to, it won't happen again.

Deni

CEREBUS

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Cerebus the Aardvark

HAVE TO FIGURE OUT HOW TO SKETCH POTATO SALAD...

OR CEREBUS IS FINISHED! FINISHED! FINISHED!

JAKA.

YES.

I CAME BACK...

...TO ASK YOU A **QUESTION.**

JAKA...

AREN'T YOU DRESSED YET?!

PETUNIACON

'SOKAY!
'SOKAY.
CER'BUS WAS JUST RESTING HIS EYES!
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN! I CAN'T LEAVE YOU ALONE FOR A SECOND...
WE'RE ALREADY LATE!
HURRY UP! HURRY UP!

...DAY TWO

TRY NOT TO BE SO **ABRASIVE** TODAY...

THE REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE DOCKS SAID YOU WERE **VERY RUDE** TO HIM...

IT WOULDN'T KILL YOU TO BE **NICE** ONCE IN A WHILE...

HEY! HEY! **THERE** HE IS!

WOO WOO

HEY! HEY! HEY!

WE WERE **WONDERING** WHERE HE WAS!

AND **HERE** HE IS **NOW!**

HEY! HEY! **HEY!**

ARE YOU GOING TO DO **ROCKS** TODAY LIKE YOU **SAID?!**

CEREBUS DOESN'T KNOW, YET...

WHEN **WILL** YOU KNOW?

LATER.

AFTER LUNCH?

MAYBE.

FOR SURE BY DINNER TIME?

PROBABLY.

WHAT **KIND** OF ROCKS?

PLAIN ROCKS?

CEREBUS DOESN'T KNOW.

WHEN **WILL** YOU KNOW?

TARIM.

WHAT'S WITH THE BANDAGES?

WE WERE CHOSEN BY ELROD TO HELP WITH HIS SWORDS-MANSHIP EXHIBITION.

EVEN WITH A **WOODEN** SWORD HIS RIGHT ARM WAS A *BLUR*...

SLASH!

SLASH!

UNERRING ACCURACY

SLASH!

SLASH!

EVERY MOVE A STROKE OF **BRILLIANCE.**

I SHOULD KNOW...

I WAS THREE-TIME CHAMPION AT THE **SEMINARY**...

WOW.

DO YOU WANT TO COME WITH US TO SEE ELROD'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS?

NO... CEREBUS JUST HAD A NAP A WHILE AGO ...

WHAT?

NOTHING.

M'LORD--I'VE BEEN LOOKING FOR YOU *EVERYWHERE* ...

YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE ON A ***PANEL***...

"GRAFT--BOON OR BLESSING?"

NO, M'LORD... "*US AND THEM: ERADICATING THEM*"

YOU MIGHT BE IN TIME FOR THE *QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD*

WHAT ABOUT ELROD'S KEYNOTE ADDRESS?

IT WAS RE-SCHEDULED TO ***YESTERDAY***...

HERE WE ARE...

YOU CAN GO RIGHT IN...

AND MAY I SAY, ON BEHALF OF THE HOTEL STAFF HOW HAPPY WE HAVE BEEN TO SERVE YOU, AND THAT WE HOPE YOU WILL BE HAPPY WHEREVER YOU GO, WHEN THE VOTE...THAT IS... WHEN ***ELROD***...

WHEN ELROD DOES WHAT?

ER--NOTHING M'LORD...

NO PROBLEM. ELROD'S BEEN DOING THAT SINCE HE WAS ***BORN***...

(Cerebus enters through side entrance and sits down)

Representative:
I'd like to ask his highness King K'cor if he thinks lest can withstand an attack from the Hsifan Khanate?

K'cor:
Walls do not defend a city! (Louder) Soldiers do not defend a city! (Louder) BUREAUCRATS CANNOT DEFEND A CITY! (some spontaneous applause) A KING DEFENDS HIS CITY . . . AND-ELROD-IS-A-KING! (pounds water jug) El-rod! El-rod! El-rod-El-rod!

Representatives (chanting) El-rod! Elrod! El-rod!

Elrod:
Please-I say--Please! Y'all are embarrassing me. But y'all remind me of a story . . . joke, that is.
(room grows quiet)
Someone asked the prime minister what he would do if a few thousand Hsiffies came smashing into the Legislature, armed to the teeth and screaming war chants . . .
(murmuring)
. . . and the prime minister said "That would all depend on which way they intended to vote."
(sustained laughter and applause)

Representatives:
(chanting) El-rod! El-rod! El-rod!

Cerebus:
Cerebus has a better joke (cries of "sit down", etc.) (pulls lining out of jacket pockets and shrugs shoulders) What's this? (pauses) lest renegotiating her loan payments. (Sudden silence broken by angry muttering)

Elrod:
It looks--I say--it looks more like Astoria paying your hotel bill to me, son!
(sustained applause and loud laughter)

Representative:
(chanting) El-Rod! El-rod! El-rod!

Representative:
I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to reduce the interest payments on lest's outstanding loans.

Lord Julius:
I'm sorry, you'll have to speak up; I'm selectively hard of hearing.

Representative:
THE INTEREST PAYMENTS ON IEST'S LOANS.

Lord Julius:
Yes.

Representative:
Yes, what?

Lord Julius:
(to Cerebus) Did he say "Guess what?"

Representative:
YOU SAID "YES", AND I AM ASKING WHAT YOU SAID "YES" IN REFERENCE TO!!

Lord Julius:
Would you mind keeping it down? I'm trying to talk to this unemployed bureaucrat here.

Representative:
I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO REDUCE THE INTEREST ON IEST'S LOANS!

Lord Julius:
I'm sorry, someone already asked that question.

Representative:
I ASKED THAT QUESTION!

Lord Julius:
Then you already had your turn. Next?

Representative:
Do you plan to resume trade with lest in light of recent events?

Lord Julius:
Yes. I plan to trade lest to the Seprans for Serrea and future considerations.

Representative:
You plan to trade lest to the Seprans?

Lord Julius:
How did you know? That's supposed to be top secret! Guards! Arrest that man!

Representative:
Lord Julius! I PROTEST!

Lord Julius:
In that case let him go and have him repeat the question.

Representative:
DO-YOU-INTEND-TO-TRADE-THIS-CITY-TO-THE-SEPRANS?!

Lord Julius:
Oh, THAT's what you said. . . I thought you wanted me to offer YOU a deal.

Representative:
I would never trade my city for another.

Lord Julius:
That's why I threw in the future considerations. Next?

Representative:
Taking into account the fact that King Elrod has never been defeated in combat, I'd like to ask His Highness why he never attacked the Hsifan Khanate while he was living in Lower Felda.

Elrod:
Well, son--I look at it this way. It takes a strong man to walk away from a fight
(applause)

Elrod:
And it takes an even stronger man to win that fight.
(more applause)

Elrod:
And it takes an even stronger man to win that fight, walk away and then come back and win it again!!
(applause)

Elrod:
And . . . uh . . . so on. Etcetera, that is.

K'cor:
(pounding water jug) Etcet-RA! Etcet-RA! Etcet-RA!

Representative:
(chanting) Etcet-RA! Etcet-RA! Etcet-RA!

Representative:
I'd like to ask each of the distinguished panelists if they will tell us to what do they attribute their success.

Cerebus:
Walking into the right hotel. (scattered chuckling)

Lord Julius:
I attribute my success to ambition, determination, guts, integrity, fairness, honesty and having enough money to buy people with those qualities.

Elrod:
(chuckles) Why, I suppose it sounds corny, but I guess clean living, royal blood, and the mightiest sword arm in all Estarcion is what makes me the unqualified success I am today. (Cerebus makes choking noises, drowned out by chants of El-rod, El-rod, El-rod and much more applause and stamping)

K'cor:
I am successful because I am the only person in my city who is not heavily addicted to powerful narcotics.

Lord Julius:
Are you sure you aren't from Palnu?

Representative:
Lord Julius, do you intend to reduce lest's interest payments? Please answer yes or no.

Lord Julius:
Gee, we just ran out of time. Why don't you drop by the hospitality room and if I'm not there, we can talk about it.

(Lord Julius and Elrod exit quickly).

transcript concluded.

relay by courier to His Holiness.

WHAT--I SAY--
WHAT A *CANDIDATE!*

WHAT *STYLE!*
WHAT *POISE!*

HE'LL *THRASH*
THOSE HSIFFIES.

¡WHY, I FEEL SAFER THAN A *GAME-BIRD* WITH A *CROSSBOW!*

DISMEMBER, THAT IS...

EL-ROD!
EL-ROD!

'SCUSE ME, SON--
WOULD YOU MIND
PUTTING MORE
LEAVES ON IT...?

IT LOOKS *BARER*
THAN THE *PRIME*
MINISTER'S BANK
ACCOUNT...

EL-ROD
EL-ROD

OUR PROBLEMS
ARE *SOLVED*...

CURED,
THAT IS.

WE'VE--I SAY--
WE'VE FOUND
A LEADER!

EL-ROD!
EL-ROD!

CEREBUS WILL
START SKETCHING
ROCKS **ONLY** WHEN
THIS *ROOM* IS
QUIET!

SILENT,
THAT IS!!

WHAT'S-- I SAY-- WHAT'S...

SHHHHHHHHH!

DID--I SAY-- DID SOMEONE DIE?

HE'S SKETCHING ROCKS, BUT HE'LL **STOP** IF WE AREN'T QUIET...

SH.

M'LORD... I'VE COME TO...

SHHHH!

M'LORD.. I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT THEY'RE READY FOR YOU ON THE NEXT PANEL.

THE NEXT-- I SAY.. THE NEXT PANEL?

IS ELROD ON IT?

WHY-- YES.

WAHOO!

OUTA MY WAY!

I'M GOING TO BE AT THE **FRONT** THIS TIME!

K'cor:
In my city there is only one kind of graft. You do exactly what I want you to do and you will be rewarded with narcotics and food and be permitted to live.

Lord Julius:
You'd have to go a long way to find a better offer than that.

Elrod:
Personally, I feel . . . I say . . . I feel that the average man in the street . . . or legislature . . . needs more than that. (some applause)

Lord Julius:
Like what?

Elrod:
Like guaranteed pension for five or more years of government services. (applause and cheers)

Elrod:
Like reduced taxes for government employees. (applause and cheers)

Lord Julius:
The average man in the street sounds a little expensive. Do you have anything in "below average"?

Elrod:
How . . . I say . . how about the kid in the bunny suit? (laughter and applause)

K'cor:
Any citizen of a city should be grateful his worthless life is spared by his Benevolent Sovereign. Grant him any more than that and he becomes soft! Flabby! (nervous coughs in the audience)

Lord Julius:
Baskin! Make a note to offer this man whatever he wants to become Ranking Diplomatic Representative to Eshnosopur.

Baskin:
Yes, Lord Julius.

Lord Julius:
Now that all the spies from Eshnosopur have had coronaries, we'll take some questions from the audience.

Representative:
I'd like to ask Mister Baskin what life is like in the government of Palnu. (long pause)

Lord Julius:
Baskin!

Baskin:
Lord Julius?

Lord Julius:
The nice man asked you a question.

Baskin:
Who?! Me?

Lord Julius:
The "mister" part threw him for a minute.

Baskin:
Life in the government of Palnu?

Lord Julius:
You can leave out the part about you-know-what.

Baskin:
You-know-what?

Lord Julius:
The you-know-what we were discussing you-know-where when you-know-who walked in.

Baskin:
Oh. Well, aside from that, it's very nice.

Lord Julius:
The dream of Truth in Government marches on. Next?

Representative:
Is graft really necessary? Perhaps all of the panelists would address this issue. How necessary is graft?

Cerebus:
Graft is as necessary as throwing up when you drink too much

Lord Julius:
He really knows how to turn a phrase, doesn't he?

Elrod:
I think I know what the boy is driving at . . . implying that is. We don't LIKE graft, but sometimes . . . I say sometimes you have to grease the wheels.

Lord Julius:
Or they squeak too much.

K'cor:
In my city when wheels squeak too much, we hit them with a hammer until they stop.

Lord Julius:
On second thought, pencil him in as chief negotiator for the Public Sevice contract negotiations.

Baskin:
I think graft is necessary for government officials who are unhappy with their position unlike government officials like me who like their position and don't want anything else.

Lord Julius:
Make a note to cancel your cut in salary.

Baskin:
Yes, Lord Julius. Thank you, Lord Julius.

Lord Julius:
Next question?

Representative:
What I want to know is why nobody pays graft to Dadocks (sp?). Don't anybody worry about their ships meeting with small accidents?

Lord Julius:
What do you have in mind?

Representative:
Well, just as an example, for instance, those five merchant ships from Painu in the harbour right now. What if they was to, all of a sudden, sink, like.

Lord Julius:
You think that's possible?

Representative:
Well, I ain't no shipbuilder, but if a crew of dockworkers don't right away go out and fix the holes that are about to appear below the water-line, I would say it's not only possible, but, ah, inevitable.

Lord Julius:
How much do you suppose this crew of dock workers would need to fix these possibly inevitable holes?

Representative:
They is awfully big holes.

Lord Julius:
How about two hundred crowns?

Representative:
They would have to, as well, be thoroughly tarred.

Lord Julius:
I know exactly how they feel. Three hundred?

Representative:
Yes, that would about cover it.

Lord Julius:
Pleasure doing business with you.

Representative:
Likewise, I'm sure.

Lord Julius:
Next Question.

Representative:
I would like to know if Lord Julius intends to insure that his ships pass safely through my riding of Harbourgate West by financing inspection of the Honourable Member's repair of the inevitable holes mentioned earlier.

Lord Julius:
Perhaps K'cor, my temporary Minister for Naval Blackmail would like to answer that question.

K'cor:
The ships will pass safely after a free inspection and you will be permitted to live the rest of your life with your spine intact.

Lord Julius:
Fair enough?

Representative:
Yes, Quite fair. Thank you.

Lord Julius:
Next question.

Representative:
I would like to know if Lord Julius intends to reduce the interest on Iest's outstanding loans.

Lord Julius:
In answer to your question, Elrod will be doing free sketches in the hospitality room as soon as we get there. Last one there gets a sketch of a rotten egg. (mass confusion as Lord Julius and Elrod, surrounded by the representatives, make their way to the rear of the hall)

Transcript copy to Her Worship Cirin of Upper Felda.
Transcript copy to Astoria, Duchess of Parmoc, Ambassador Suite.

M'LORD?

M'LORD--I JUST WANTED TO TELL YOU HOW ***UNFAIR*** I THINK IT IS THAT AN ACCOMPLISHED PALNAN CABINET MINISTER WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO SAVE US ALL FROM THE ***GRAND INQUISITOR*** ...

...SHOULD END UP WITH NO ALLIES IN THE *LEGISLATURE* WHILE THAT... ***THAT...THUG*** WITH NAUGHT TO RECOMMEND HIM BUT AN ABILITY TO MURDER ***OTHER THUGS*** ...

...SHOULD END UP WITH SO *MANY*...

...SHOULD HAVE THE ***ENTIRE*** LEGISLATURE ...

...WELL.

I JUST DON'T THINK IT'S ***FAIR.***

I THOUGHT YOU SHOULD *KNOW.*

GOODBYE, M'LORD.

IT'S NOT FAIR.

IT'S- NOT-

FAIR!

IT'S...

NOT...

FAIR! ...

IT'S NOT FAIR...

IT'S NOT FAIR...

IT'S NOT FAIR!

Later

SO...I SAY... SO AFTER I WON THE WALL OF TSI BACK...

...I HAD THEM BRING THE KEVILLIST LEADER TO MY TENT...

CRASH

ALL RIGHT ALBINO! ...

LET'S SEE HOW GOOD YOU REALLY ARE!!

OF ALL-- I SAY--OF ALL THE UNMITIGATED GALL! ...

REALLY!

HE MUST BE INSANE-- CRAZY, THAT IS...

OR DESPERATE TO KEEP HIS JOB, MORE LIKELY...

HIS HIGHNESS WILL CUT HIM TO RIBBONS...

HE LOOKS LIKE SOME SORT OF RUFFIAN... SAVAGE, THAT IS...

UH-OH.

C'MON ALBINO!!

YOU CAN'T HIDE BEHIND THOSE SHEEP FOREVER!

SHEEP?

OH!

THE NERVE!

YOU'LL PAY FOR THAT *REMARK*, *BARBARIAN*.

WE'LL SEE WHO IS HIDING FROM **WHOM!**

EL-ROD
EL-ROD

BUT-- IT'S NOT A FAIR FIGHT-- HE'S **SHORTER** THAN ME--**I**, THAT IS!

NONSENSE!

HE ISSUED THE *CHALLENGE*.

SEERSUCKER II, YOUR HIGHNESS.

EL-ROD

CEREBUS!!

OH NO.

GET **OUT** HERE THIS ***INSTANT!***

BOOO!! COWARD! COW-ARD!! BOOOOOO! WHAT'S TH MATTER CE BUS ASTORIA FORGOT TO KISS YO GOOD BYE? NYAH! N CE S IS A COW-ARD CERE S COW-ARD

CEREBUS WILL BE BACK IN A ***MINUTE***, ALBINO

TAK*

...I SAY... TAKE YOUR ***TIME***, SON...

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY **WAVES**...

YOU TOLD CEREBUS NOT TO **SAY** ANYTHING...

CEREBUS ISN'T GOING TO **SAY** A <u>WORD</u>...

CEREBUS IS JUST GOING TO CUT ELROD INTO *LITTLE-ALBINO-* ***<u>CHUNKS</u>!***

YOU'LL RUIN *EVERYTHING.*

CEREBUS IS *FINISHED* AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE *ANYWAY*

POINT ***ONE:***

THE GOVERNMENT WILL COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS DUE TO GROSS ECONOMIC MISMANAGE-MENT...

IF IEST WANTS A *SWORDS-MAN* FOR THE JOB, CEREBUS WILL SHOW THEM A <u>REAL</u> ONE...

HOW ABSOLUTELY ***STIRRING.***

YOU'LL *UNDOUBTEDLY* BE ***LYNCHED.***

POINT TWO: I HAVE A COALITION OF DISAFFECTED GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WHO WANT YOU TO FORM A NEW PARTY AND RUN FOR PRIME MINISTER...

CEREBUS DOESN'T ***CARE*** ABOUT...

PRIME MINISTER?

YES.

CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO BE PRIME MINISTER! ...

CEREBUS WANTS TO TURN ELROD INTO ALBINO CUTLETS!

CHUK

THE PRIME MINISTER'S SALARY IS **FIFTY THOUSAND CROWNS** A YEAR...

IT INCLUDES A SUMMER HOME IN THE HILLS, PRIVATE GAME PRESERVE, A WINTER HOUSE IN THE CITY WITH SIXTY ROOMS OVERLOOKING THE FELD RIVER...

EVERY MANNER OF RARE AND EXOTIC FOODSTUFF-- SPICES, CURED AND SMOKED MEATS, **CHOCOLATE**...

THE FINEST COLLECTION OF WINES, SPIRITS AND LIQUEURS ON THE CONTINENT...

CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO **HEAR** ABOUT IT!

CEREBUS IS GOING TO SHOW **EVERYONE** THAT ELROD IS NOTHING BUT A...

LISTEN!...

CEREBUS IS GOING TO **KILL THAT ALBINO** ...IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT YOU...

LISTEN!...

OKAY! OKAY!

WHAT DOES CEREBUS HAVE TO DO?

GO BACK IN AND ADMIT THAT ELROD IS A BETTER SWORDSMAN THAN YOU.

FORGET IT!!

CEREBUS WILL JUST HAVE TO GET LYNCHED!

THE PRIME MINISTER ALSO EXERCISES ABSOLUTE CONTROL OVER THREE THOUSAND BUREAUCRATS, AN ARMY OF FIFTY THOUSAND MERCENARIES...

... A LEGISLATIVE STAFF OF TWO HUNDRED...

...AND A PERSONAL ENTOURAGE OF ONE HUNDRED SERVANTS, SECRETARIES AIDES AND CABINET MINISTERS

ABSOLUTE...

...CONTROL.

OKAY! OKAY!

WELL? WHAT ARE...

CEREBUS WILL BE BACK IN A MINUTE!!

"TWO BOTTLES OF *BOREALAN WHISKEY*"

AYE.

"FOUR FOOT LENGTH OF CHAIN STUDDED WITH THREE-INCH SPIKES"

AYE

"FIFTY POUND SACK OF FLOUR"

AYE.

"RESERVATION-- CORNER TABLE FOR ONE--"*RAM'S LORD'S TAVERN*."

"TAXI TO BE READY AT EAST ENTRANCE IN A HALF-HOUR."

ANYTHING *ELSE*, M'LORD?

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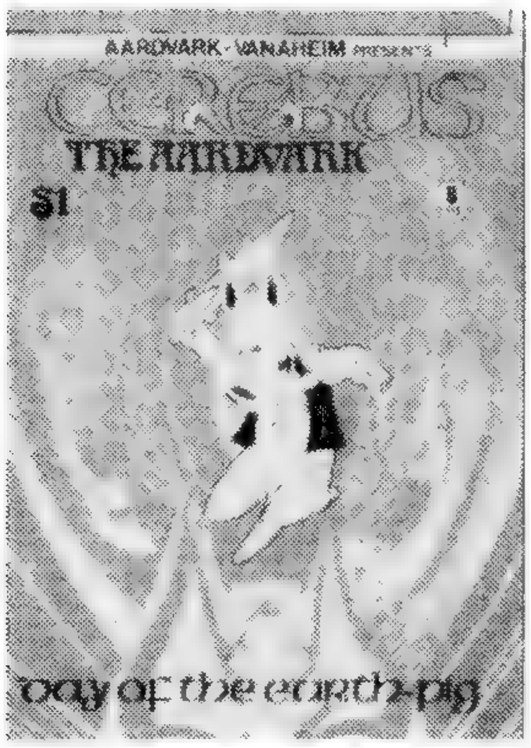

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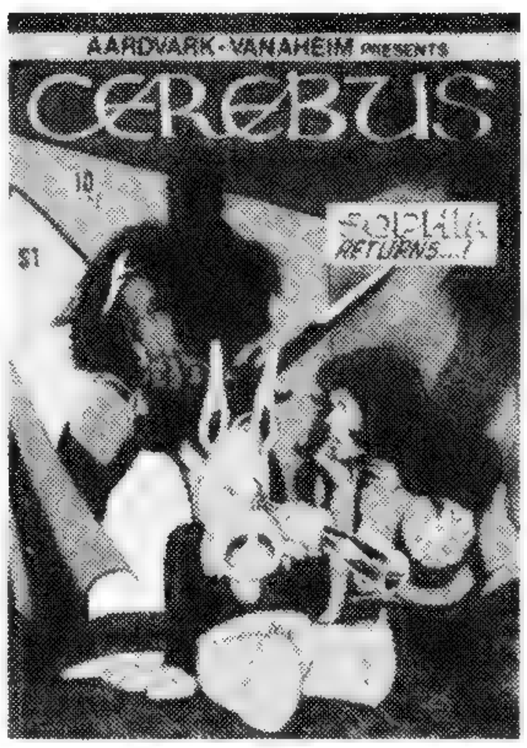

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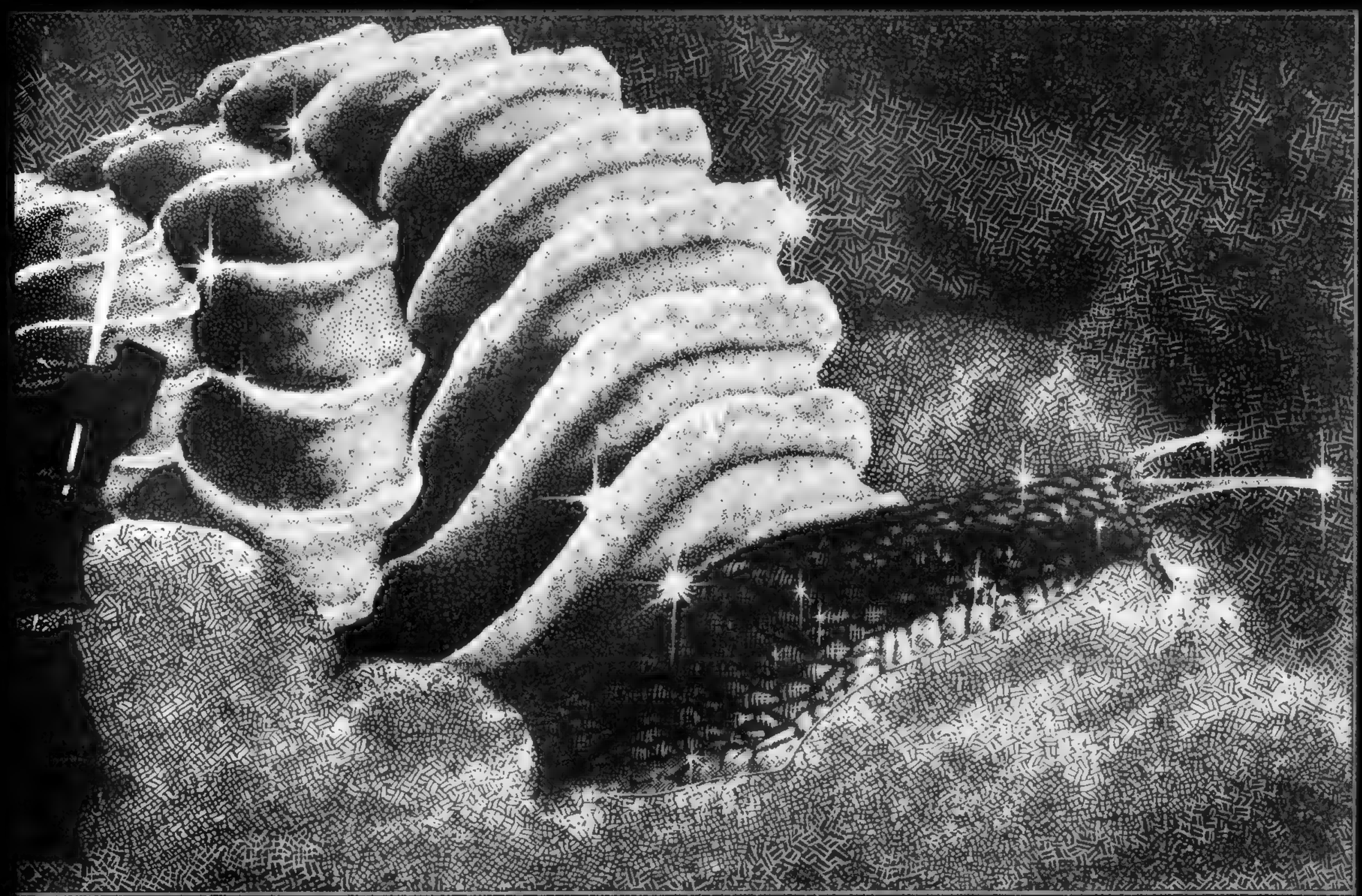

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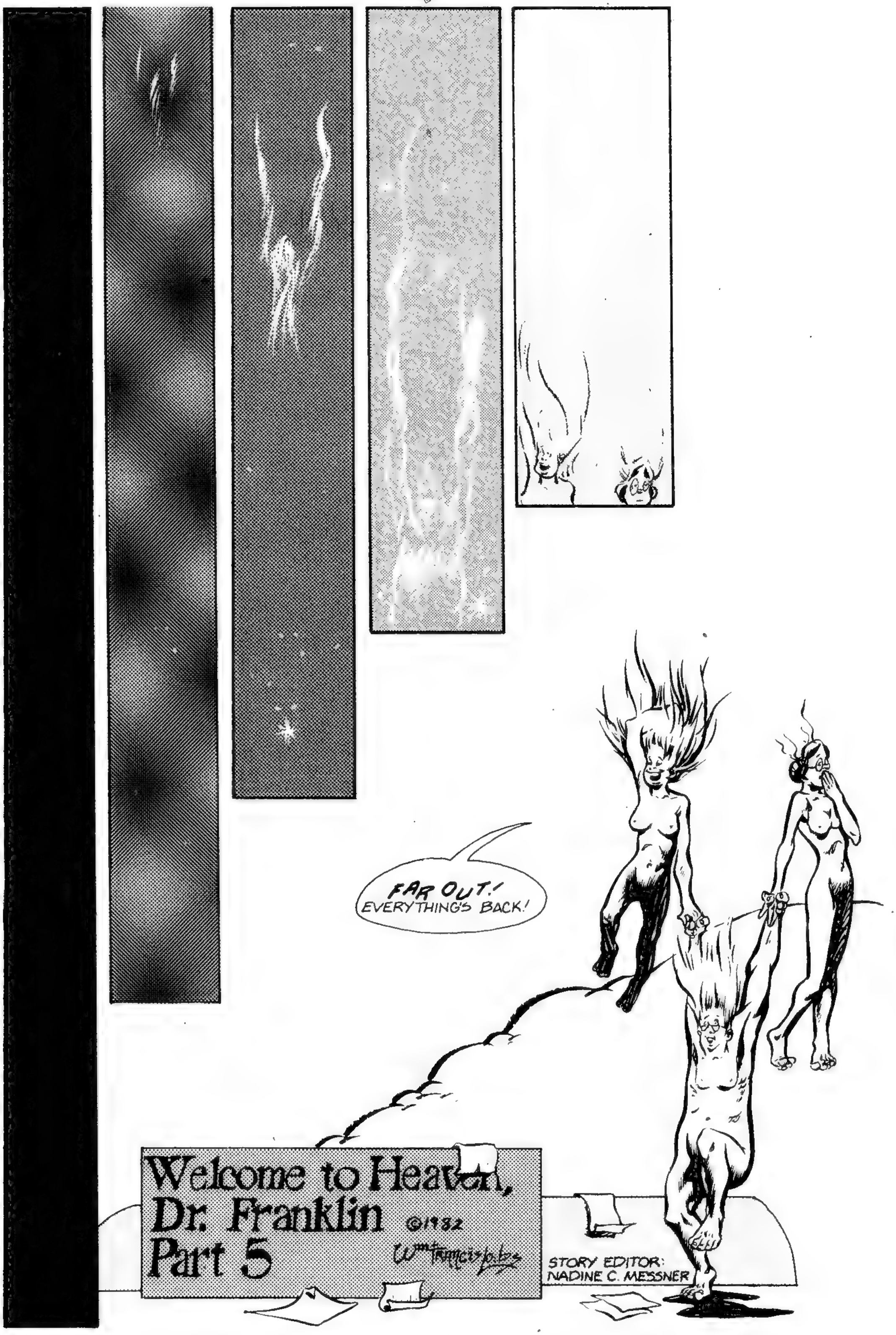
A UNIQUE STORY



...THERE'S TREES AN' GRASS AN' COLUMNS AN' BUILDINGS AN' BIRDS AN' SKY AN' LEAVES AN' TREES AN'...

...SO ON. YES, I KNOW. I'M GLAD YOU LIKE IT. I HAD TO FINISH IN QUITE A RUSH.!

SUBJECT: OPERATION GODSWITCH

PURPOSE: TO TRAIN DR. BENJAMIN FRANKLIN, PRINTER, AS VICE-DEITY. UNDER MY DIRECT AUTHORITY.

REMARKS: FRANKLIN IS A VERY CLEVER MAN... A LOOSE CANNON AND MUST BE WATCHED...

MARCUS AURELIUS
PRIME MOVER

PS... PASSION-WISE I LOVE YA. KID

BUT... HON..?

I REMAIN **UNSURE**... WHEN THE UNIVERSE *DISSOLVED* ABOUT ME FOUND MYSELF A *SPARK* OF **PURE MIND**.. AND USING THE ARCANE ART YOU SHEWED ME I **MEDITATED** UPON CREATION, USING DESCARTE'S *COGITO ERGO SUM* AS "MANTRA". AT ONCE, THO ALL ELSE WAS *VOID*, I KNEW THAT I YET THOUGHT... AND REACHED OUT AND **SLIPPED** THE ERRANT PIECES OF REALITY BACK TOGETHER AS EASILY AS ONE MAY REPAIR A **CLOCK**...

WOW.! HEAVY.!

OF COURSE, BEING *GOD* DIDN'T HURT...

TM... HE USED **TM**...! *TERRIFIC.! MARVELOUS.!* TELL ME, DOCTOR... HOW DO YOU PLAN TO *RUN* THE UNIVERSE... WITH *OUIJA BOARDS* AND *TAROT CARDS*.?

NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT...

...I PLAN TO "RUN" IT THROUGH SCIENTIFIC RATIONALISM AND REPUBLICAN DEMOCRACY. UNDER **MARCUS** MANKIND WAS NEITHER *MORAL* NOR *IMMORAL*.. **HE** CONTROLLED THOSE "OPTIONS". I MEAN TO GIVE MANKIND THAT CHOICE.!

SEE..?

OH.

WELL. WHILE THE **GREAT PLAN** PROCEEDS, DOCTOR, COULD WE... ERRR... POSSIBLY GET DRESSED? AS CHARMING A CAMEO AS THIS MIGHT BE, IT IS **CHILLY**...

AWWW..!

YOUR PARDON, LADIES! DOUBTLESS, AFTER YEARS OF NAUGHT BUT **ROBES** AND **TOGAS** YOU ARE IN SOME WISE CURIOUS TO VIEW THE MODERN FASHIONS.?

NO.!

THESE ARE THE *LATEST THING* OUT OF BOSTON.!

UMM..VERY NICE, DOCTOR...

WHAT'S ON THE AGENDA NOW? AS **HEAD OBITY**, EVERYTHING IS YOURS TO COMMAND!

A *TAVERN WENCH*... I C'N DIG IT.!

MISS JOAN... *ENID*... I WILL NOT **COMMAND**.. NOR WILL I BE *GOD* ALONE. THAT WAY LIES MADNESS. THERE MUST BE OTHERS LIKE *DA VINCI*, MEN AND WOMEN **DISDAINED** BY MARCUS AND **FORGOT** BY TIME... WHO, *CHEATED* OF INFLUENCE IN THEIR OWN **AGE**, CAN HAVE IT A-PLENTY NOW.!

A *COMMITTEE* IS WHAT'S **NEEDED**.!

...A **HOUSE OF BURGESSES** OF THE GREATEST MINDS IN HISTORY!

PERHAPS MARCUS LEFT A LIST... SUNSHINE?.

NOPE, LIKE THERE'S NO FILES AT ALL... ...AN' NO *DOPE* EITHER.! BUMMER!

SIDES, I KNOW TH' DUDES YOU NEED!

YOU DO?

SURE.! THERE'S CHUCK BERRY AN' PETER MAX AN' CHE, AN' TIM LEARY AN' RINGO AN' BABA RAM DASS AN' SPIDERMAN AN'

ALL WORTHY PHILOSOPHERS, I'M SURE...

WE HAVE MONTHS OF **RESEARCH** BEFORE US, BUT TOWARD WHAT AN END... HUMANITY FREED OF MARCUS' STOIC COMPULSIONS- ALLOWED AT LAST TO SEEK ITS OWN **DESTINY...!**

YES...**YES!** A PURER HEAVEN... UNFOULED BY **PAGANISM**...A PARADISE WITHOUT TRACE OF ANIMAL PASSIONS OR SIN!

BUT HOW'R YOU GONNA CONVINCE THESE GUYS T' SHOW UP, **DOC!** THEY MIGHT NOT DIG THE SCENE?

SHOW UP? WHY THEY'LL COME **A-FLOCKING!**

THIS WILL BE THE **GREATEST** INTELLECTUAL ADVENTURE IN HISTORY!

THERE GONNA BE MUSIC?

HEAVEN WILL TRULY BE A PARNASSUS... A **NEW ATHENS**... THE FINAL DREAM OF..

ALL AGAINST ME... YAAAA...URK!

ZAP.?

YOU SEE? A VOLUNTEER!

..AND TELL THAT INSOLENT PUP BUONARROTI, THAT...WHERE AM I?

HE'S **SANE!**

...AND WHAT THE HELL AM I DOING WITH A KNIFE?

WELL, I KNEW IT WOULD EITHER MAKE HIM SANE OR TURN HIM INTO A TOAD.

FORTUNATELY...

GEE HE'S CUTE!

WELCOME TO HEAVEN, MAESTRO DA VINCI!

UH, YES, WE DO, MAESTRO..

UH, THANK YOU... DO YOU PEOPLE KNOW YOU'RE NOT WEARING **SHOES?**

AND THAT THERE'S GRASS GROWING OUT OF THE CLOUDS?

YOU SEE, MAESTRO, I'M...WELL, **GOD**, AT LEAST FOR THE MOMENT... AND I'D LIKE..

HEY, IF YOU'RE REALLY GOD YOU NEED A STATUE...I'M **GREAT** WITH STATUES...OR A FOUNTAIN...

SAY, DO I HAVE TO PAY FOR MY SINS?

NOT UNLESS YOU REALLY WANT TO... MAESTRO, I HAVE SOMETHING OF A PROPOSITION FOR YOU...

Finis

HI, THERE! YOU NO DOUBT RECOGNIZE US AS **JIM ENGEL** AND **CHUCK FIALA**, HAPPY-GO-LUCKY HOSTS OF **"FANDOM CONFIDENTIAL,"** THE POPULAR "COMIC READER" FEATURE WHICH HAS MADE US THE TWO BEST KNOWN, LOVED, AND RESPECTED PEOPLE IN FANDOM!

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I DON'T HAVE A WIFE OR CHILD LIKE JIM, BUT MY **MOM** HERE NEEDS PLASTIC SURGERY!

AND I'M GOING TO NEED BRACES AS SOON AS I GET TEETH.

DAWK!

WE'RE SURE NO FURTHER PROOF IS NECESSARY TO CONVEY TO YOU THIS **ABSOLUTE TRUTH**: "FANDOM CONFIDENTIAL STARRING JIM ENGEL AND CHUCK FIALA" IS **WITHOUT QUESTION** THE FUNNIEST COMIC SATIRE MAGAZINE IN THE HISTORY OF FANDOM, AND CONTAINS MORE SOLID LAUGHS THAN **ALL** THE EDITIONS OF THE PRICE GUIDE **COMBINED!**

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AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni

Having been hit with an incredible 'double wammy' (your own Cerebus # 36 and the equally phenominal Master of Kung Fu # 114 ---- I may write Doug and Gene as well) this month, I am moved to write my first letter ever to any publication.

The only way #36 could have been better is if it had been longer (I also know 22 pages is enough of a strain on you). This final panel blew away anything I have ever seen in a comic (barring certain scenes in Starlin's Metamorphosis Odyssey), and this issue in general brought to full development (or it's fullest development yet -- please don't stop) an artistic theme that is actually my main reason for writing this letter. Tell me if I'm wrong, but I have perceived your city layouts (especially the interiors) as having an 'Art-Deco' quality to them that I ABSOLUTELY ADORE and the fact that CEREBUS is printed in black and white is essential to this. *Please don't do the book in colour.* In my opinion, one of the reasons the humor is successful is that it is contrasted with the extreme 'formality' of the artwork. Don't get me wrong; I would like to see the color covers continued --- just don't fool with the b and w of the stories. Do color reprints if you must for Bill Hall and the others, but keep the originals as they are.

By the way, I have also noted (again with extreme delight) a certain 'chronological eclecticism' in the work as a whole (i.e. the 18th century dress, the 15th and 16th century political climate, and the aforementioned 1920's thru 1940's interiors). Is this conscious on your part or did it just sort of fall into place that way?

R. e. 'Unique Stories'; I sort of half-liked "Welcome to heaven, Dr. Franklin" so far, but I am also in the same camp as Michael Koenecke of Austin. Your own story is so truly outstanding that it gets in the way of giving 'Unique Stories' the appreciation they deserve (this is analogous to running an episode of M*A*S*H in installments on the commercial breaks in 'Shogun'). The stories just might get the sort of exposure they need better if they were published as separate books -- I remember a certain comic dealing with the exploits of a barbarian aardvark that got it's start that way . . .

In closing let me reiterate my sincere congratulations on an excellent run thus far, and also communicate my wonderment at learning that the 'High Society' plot line runs through issue 50. I thought it probably was destined for it's denouement around number 40, but I will be watching eagerly to see how you sustain it that long (must be some kind of comic book record for continuous plot --- even MOKF's 'Warriors of the Golden Dawn' cycle didn't run that long). Take care and keep on Cookin'!!!

P.S. Count me among the ranks of avid Astoria watchers; I once had a girl friend like her (I mean right down to the ice-water circulatory system) except that she wasn't that tall and didn't inhale drugs and get the hots for me (pity).

Steve Dinges
12559 E. 41st Street
Number 423
Tulsa, OK

18th century dress? 15th and 16th century political climate? 1920's and 1940's interiors? I think I see why people feel the background to be inconsistent. The idea I am trying to get across is a culture (Upper Class lest) far removed and much evolved from the rest of the places that have appeared in the book. I try to keep the clothing, interiors, and decorations very basic to indicate that the New Merchant Class is evolving the New Artisan Class (eager to siphon off the New Money, but more at home rendering religious artifacts than ornate grillwork). The Regency Hotel is an Estarcian anomaly; the rest of the continent is lagging some hundred years behind. More on the unique-ness of Upper-class lest next issue.

Dear Dave and Deni

I'm writing this letter cause I've got this desire to tell artists whose work gives me pleasure how much I appreciate it. Appreciation duly noted? Good.

The Night Before was a marvelous, marvelous work. There are very few pieces of such emotional power in the comics field. This issue was very moving. It's really hard to explain Cerebus to people, cause they find it hard to believe that a humour story can also have real effective characters. I don't really understand it either; I just enjoy it. What I liked most about this issue was the lack of captions. The typical Marvel/DC writer would lay it on thick with the likes of 'The Earth-Pig bows his head, weighed down with sad remembrances of things past . . ." (page 7, panel 3) or "The Earth-Pig's eyes widened with shock, . . ." (Page 17 panel 1) (that's for the dribblebrains who can't look at the picture and see Cerebus' eyes widening) (Hey, you think I can write for Marvel now?) You have the skill as an artist to show emotions through facial expressions (and the marvelous effect of the tear on the last page.) (Am I correct in assuming the sword was found with the Cootie's gold?) (Are all these parenthetical asides annoying you . . . ?)

You are absolutely right; Cerebus is finally starting to realize what friendship means, though he won't admit it to others. While Jaka is speaking to him, he is snide; But when she is gone, the tears flow.

Well, I like a slow-paced story as much as anyone, but I am waiting for the continuation of the Petuniacon plot, and an explanation as to why Astoria is lying to Cerebus about their financial situation. Also, the return of that irascable and irrepressible father/son team of Julius and Elrod. And how about the whole first family of Palnu, including baby brother Cerebus, locked in a closet?

And I'm going crazy trying to figure out what's going to happed next issue that's so important that you had to count down to it! I have a query, which I hope you'll answer, cause it concerns what seems to be a major discrepency in your storyline. The question is: HOW IN TARIM'S NAME DID CEREBUS GET TO BE AMBASSADOR IN IEST? I mean, in issue 16 he quits his job with Lord Julius, goes riding into the sunset. Then he becomes an active enemy of Palnu by leading the T'Gitans, then, after a few more months of wandering, comes to Iest. There he is treated like a King and declared Ranking Diplomatic Representative from Palnu. Now, I would assume that this was a mistaken impression on their part. But now with the tariff business and Julius' visit, it has become apparent that he actually holds the job. How? Is it because people thinking he was effective made him so, forcing Julius to give him that post? (Probably).

And it seems to me that, no matter how haughty Astoria is, she would recognize the most powerful man in Estarcion, which is what Julius seems to be.

Kudos for speaking out on the Great White North; some opposition from world famous Canadians like yourself is needed to stop this unfunny besmirchment of a fine nation.

Brian Doherty
10140-7 Arrowhead Drive East
Jacksonville, Florida

Cerebus is in the unusual situation of being one of the few high level bureaucrats to leave his high paying job in Lord Julius' bureaucracy. Like the Chief of Staff who leaves the White House to become a partner in a "consulting firm" (as an example), the scent of success lingers on, attracting exploiters both benevolent and malevolent. Because Lord Julius is one of the single most charismatic and influential figures on the continent, anyone who gets close to him becomes an endless source of fascination. The situation of a wealthy former intimate of former head of state who exploits his notoriety to ensure that he never has to pay for another meal is not unheard of. Since Iest is in decline, someone who has only recently left Lord Julius' employ showing up in the city would certainly qualify as 'Ranking Diplomatic Representative' . . . a different concept from "Ambassador".

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Dear Dave and Deni

I must admit that I've been a bit down on your mag recently, feeling that you, and Cerebus, have gotten away from many of the qualities that have made this mag such a wonder. But now that I've read "The Night Before"(# 36), my faith and enjoyment are restored. Why? Well, firstly because I see that the "changes" in Cerebus and the mag have all been part of a master plan (you sneaky devil, you) and that my dissatisfaction was largely a result of being so totally taken in by your treatment of them. (Has anybody ever mentioned to you the problems of being too good at something?) Secondly, because the story addressed many of the matters that have been bothering me and brought them into a clear focus. And thirdly because it was simply en exceedingly well-done tale.

Quite apart from the fascinating Cerebus/Jaka interplay, I was quite taken by their confrontation and the way in which it delineated the great evolution/devolution of Cerebus himself. I never particularly liked, sympathized with, or identified with Cerebus himself in the past but I find that I miss that "version" of him now. (As Harry Truman once said of some right-wing dictator: "He may be an S.O.B., but he's *our* S.O.B." -- except that Mr. Truman didn't use the abbreviations, of course. That, in an affectionate way, is how I feel about the aardvark.)

Additionally, for once I very much enjoyed your "incomplete" backgrounds. They opened up and closed down the atmosphere in an entirely appropriate sequence and added much emotional impact to the story.

You asked for comments on your Unique Stories, so I'll give you some. I think you've got a good idea, especially since I'm not sure if I'd buy a whole book by an untried (by me) artist. (That's a no to your question in the lettercol.) However, it is nice to sample their work and thus easily find out if one might like to see more of it. Concerning the Ben Franklin series, I can certainly say that it *is* unique, and also interesting. I can't say that I agree with its theology; in fact, I found it quite repellent at the start. However, I find that if I view it as an allegory, rather than the author's literal or intended enterpretation of Heaven, then there is quite a lot that I can get out of it.

Finally (at last!), I note that six of the seven letters printed in the issue were from American readers. Oh no! Another Canadian cultural institution is on the road to Americanization. It happened to the National Hockey League (which is still, of course, Canada's primary cultural institution) and it can happen to Cerebus. So I say: Re-Canadianize Cerebus! Let's get some government initiative here (DREE, LIP, OFY, FIRA, LADEDA, or whatever) to fight yet another foreigh takeover. We kept the World Football League out of the country, so we can darn well help a furry animal. (Hey, maybe Greenpeace will help. Dye him white and put him on his belly and Cerebus would pass for a baby seal. Couldn't he?)

T.M. Maple

Dree, Lip Ofy and Fira, for those American "hosers" who may not know are the Canadian gods of Earth, Air, Fire and Hockey respectively. (No?)

Dear Dave (and Deni, too)

It was the tear that did it. For some reason or other my copy of # 35 was unavailable to me so, this month when I went down to Joel's shop (the local nexus point for Aardvark fans) to buy my monthly alotment of funny-books, I was pleased to see that both # 35 and # 36 had come in. A friend (who had already read both issues) was pointing out the funnier parts of # 35 (including Cerebus' prophecy for Mak Muffin, Cerebus' reaction on page 3 to Astoria's medicinal compound, the timely belch on pg. 12 among others) when upon reaching the last page, he showed me Jaka was back. After reading # 36, I realised that I had to read it again. This comic was, in an effort to refrain from using a typical letter-writing cliché, a literal masterpiece. The artwork was, as expected, also magnificent. We're talking one of the top ten comics of the decade here. True quality.

Call it an aardvarkian "My Dinner With Andre".

But it was the tear that was the clincher. The final scene in issue # 6 when Cerebus left Jaka was reversed in a realistic yet deeply touching way. The little "antique" that Jaka bought was the final touch. The twist. O. Henry would be proud. There were times when my friends would ask me why a fifteen year old would read comic books. After all, they had grown out of that seemingly childish habit, hadn't they? I was begining to wonder if I should quit. After # 36, I'm with you for life.

Thanks for making me change my mind

Joe Kilmartin
9 Cordova Street
Nepeaon, Ont.

Begining to wonder if you should quit? Before I even have a chance to stuff Lord Julius, Elrod and Cerebus into a closet together?

Perish the thought!!

Dear Dave

The letters in issue 36 (Give us gore! Blood and gore! Let's see Cerebus kill someone!) have finally persuaded me to write. Mainly what I wanted to say is: Don't listen to them I *like* watching Cerebus -- the hard-headed, mighty-thewed barbarian -- blunder his way through high society. This is a great idea and should make it impossible for anyone to try and write serious sword and sorcery ever again. (unfortunately it probably won't have that effect at all.) Though it's possible that I feel this way only because Cerebus is the only comic book I read. (Howard the Duck used to be the only comic book I read, but, -- well, let's not get into that again.)

Anyway, keep up the good work. Issue 36 was marvelous. You just keep getting better and better. I have only one question: Are we ever going to see Lord Julius' brothers, Arthur and Leonard? I'm a Groucho Marxist from way back.

Lisa Goldstein
1471 Excelsior Ave.
Oakland, CA

Arthur and Leonard are a ways off, yet. The blonde mute Stromm in issues 17 and 18 was supposed to hold the Arthur fans at bay, while Leonard has to wait for the right moment ("he say wait, and I'ma stand right he' "). The panel transcripts in this issue are for all the Julius fans.

Jack Katz, Wendy and Richard Pini and Mike Grell try vainly to conceal their disappointment as Dave Sim "Spots the Photographer" while on the Alternative Comics Panel, at the 1981 San Diego Comic Convention to zip into a quick 1-0 lead in the game that has become a fan favorite in panel audiences everywhere.

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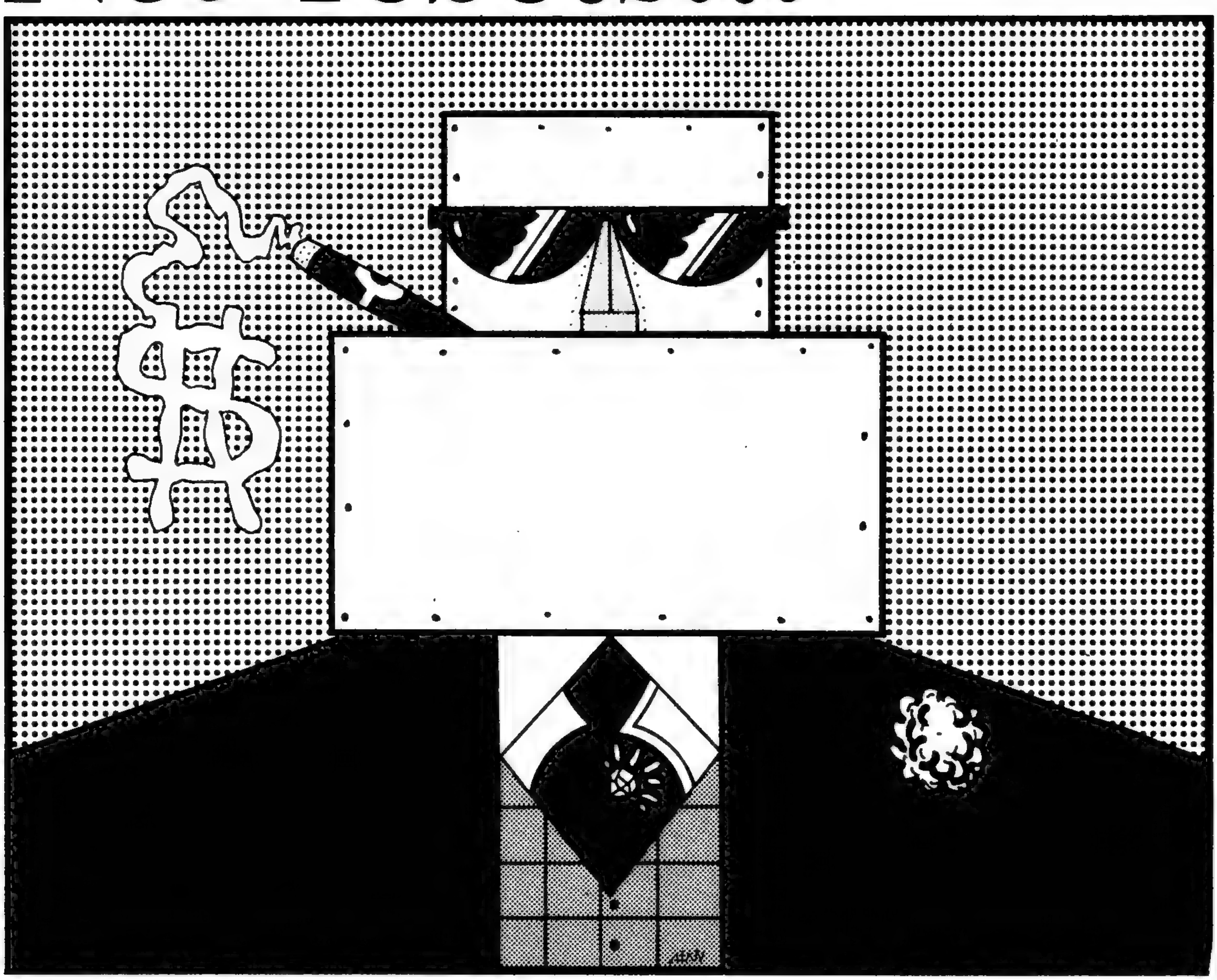

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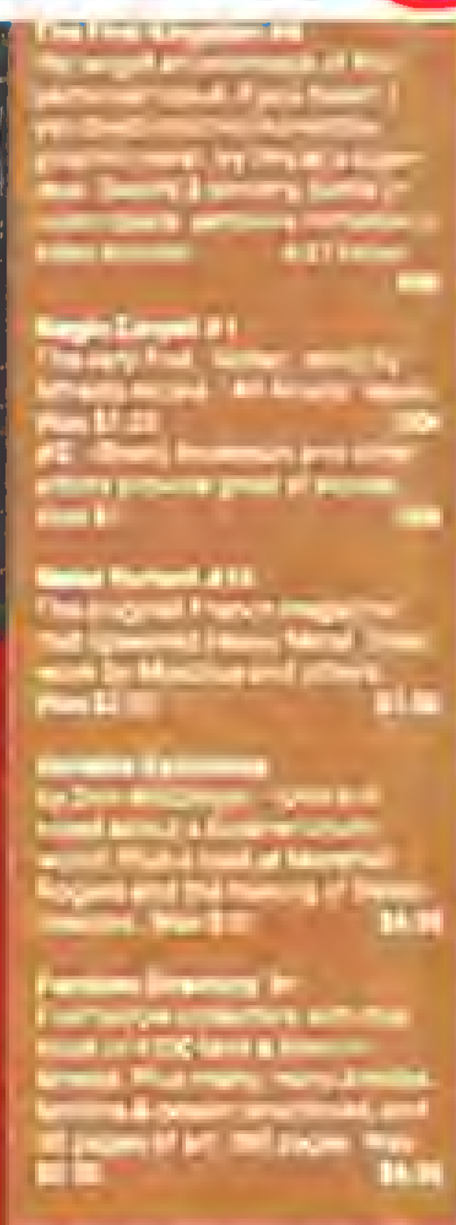

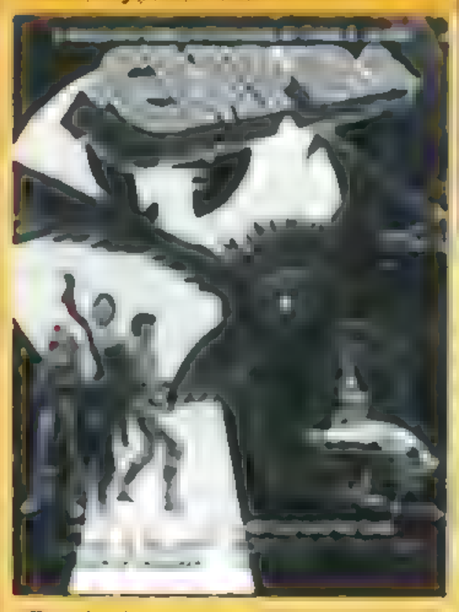

The Comics Journal
The Number One magazine about comics and comic artists! #37 Behind the Scenes at DC: Star Wars—**75¢**. #38. Interview with Star Hawks & Marvel artist Gil Kane; First Kingdom feature—**75¢**. #44 Marv Wolfman interview; a hilarious look at the "Worst" awards for comics!—**75¢**. #45: E-Man and Joe Staton looks at this Marvel artist back at another company with a highly acclaimed strip.—**75¢**. #51 Power-packed issue: Frank [illegible] & interview; Howard Chaykin interview; Epic news.—**95¢**. #55 John Bolton, Marvel s newest superstar artist, is this issue's feature! Plus Don McGregor and Steve Gerber.—**$1.25**. #61: Frank Miller! Terry Austin! Roy Thomas! Comanche Moon! And Gil Kane! A hot one.—**$1.75**

Mysteries in Space
From Infantino to Frazetta, here are the very best sf stories from DC's long-running comic. And guest stars include Adam Strange, Capt. Comet, Space Ranger, Manhunter from Mars, and the Justice League Was $7.95 **$3.95**

Starlog
The #1 magazine about science fiction in films and on TV. Compare these prices with the back issue prices in any Starlog issue and you'll be amazed. Super discounts! #10: George Pal & Ray Harryhausen; SPACE 1999. #12: The making of CLOSE ENCOUNTERS, Doug Trumbull (STAR WARS) reveals special effects secrets; STAR TREK's Gene Roddenberry is interviewed. #13: LOGAN's RUN episode guide; THE TIME MACHINE; great Disney outer space films. #18: Gary Kurtz (STAR WARS) interview; GALACTICA inside look; Hollywood monster makeup. #19: STAR WARS TV Cantina Reunion; BATTLESTAR GALACTICA; Roger Corman interview; BODY SNATCHERS #20: MORK & MINDY interview; SUPERMAN. #22: Special Effects Part One; Don Maitz
All the above just $2.00 each (less than a new issue!)

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Adventure 4000 years from now! Howard Chaykin provides 120 pages in full color for this great graphic novel. Dust wrapper slightly scuffed. Was $19.95 **$4.95**

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Interviews, news, and articles about the world of fantasy art and books. Plus covers by Steve Fabian, Roy Krenkel, and Tom Canty. Six 32-page issues ($9.00 value) for just: **$2.95**

Squa Tront
The original EC Comics fanzine, packed with interviews, articles, and unpublished art by Wally Wood, Jack Davis, Ingles, Al Williamson & others. #7 was $4, #8 was $3. each: **$1.50**

Chacal #2
Robert E. Howard fiction and articles highlight this top-quality magazine. Art by Steranko and Steve Fabian. Was $3.50 **$2.50**

REH:
Lone Star Fictioneer #4
Jim Steranko illustrates Howard's "Three Bladed Doom." Plus Frazetta, Redondo, John Severin. Was $3.50 **$2.50**

STAR REACH PACK
Chaykin! Brunner! Lelaloha! Ken Macklin! Gene Day! And many more artists, all turned loose in the best "alternative comics" ever published. Here's an assortment of **Star Reach**, **Quack**, and **Imagine** issues at close out prices!! Originally $1.25–$1.50.

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All four "Alternative" comics by Steve, including two issues of Mr. A, Avenging World, and Wha?#! Just **$2.50**

Mr. A, Avenging World, and **Wha?#!** Just **$2.50**

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CEREBUS ARCHIVE

"Update of plans for February 1983."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM UPDATE

February 1983

* In issue #47 "The Balances", Cerebus learns that being a Prime Minister does not mean sitting around and getting rich, as he tangles with his third crises. To be featured in this months issue, "Sergeant Preston of the Northern Destan Mounted Police" and "Mister the Issurian". The Unique story will be the conclusion of Michael Cherkas Dick Mallet story "The Missing Schoolgirl".

* Arn Saba's "Neil the Horse" is on the air ! Arn has written, produced and acted in a CBC dramatic mini-series for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC) to be aired during January and February across Canada. Negotiations have begun to have the radio show made available in record or tape form.

* Aardvark-Vanaheim is presently negotiating with The Frog & Box Toy Co. of Toronto to begin production on a Neil the Horse as well as a Cerebus stuffed toy.

* Dave Sim will be appearing at the St. Paul, Minnesota "Minicon 19" on April 1-3. Dave and Deni will be guests July 15-17 in Ottawa, Ontario for "Maplecon 5" and July 29-31 in Houston, Texas for "Comix Fair 83". Dave and Deni will also be at the grand opening of a new larger Silver Snail in Toronto, Ontario on January 29th.

* We are happy to announce that Citadel Miniatures, who were producing the unauthorized Cerebus figurines, have ceased production and distribution of these figures. Aardvark-Vanaheim is hoping to have their own figures out on the market by this summer. We will be doing it in partnership with another firm and all other details will be released upon the signing of contracts.

BOX 1674 STATION "C" KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Photocopy of the original art for the splash page of No.47 used in conjunction with previous page."

- Dave Sim

CEREBUS NO. 47
Page No. 1

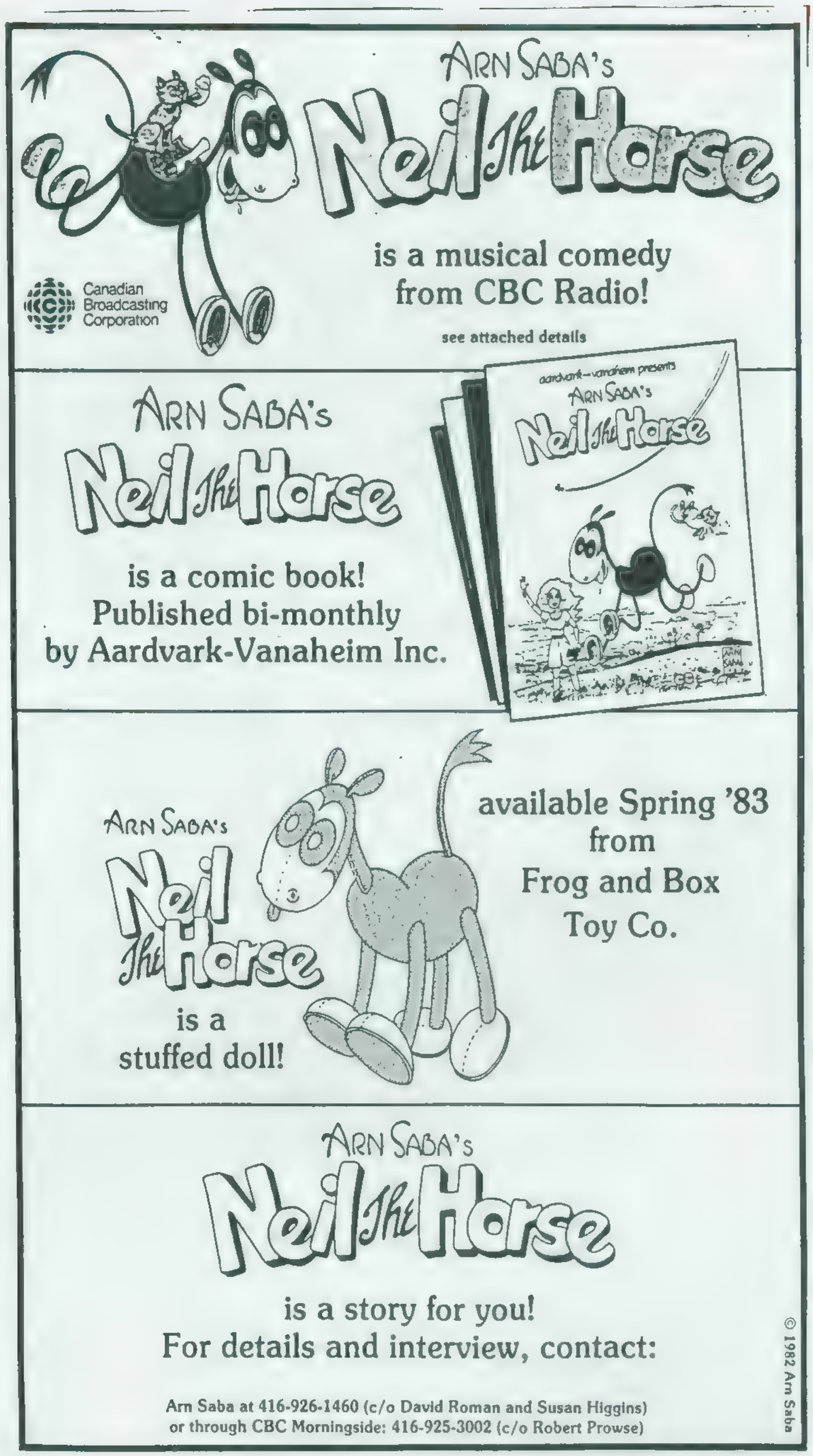
CEREBUS' SIX CRISES.

THE PROFOUND TENDS TO BE UNDERSTANDABLE RATHER THAN EXPLAINABLE AS I'M SURE THE PRIME MINISTER KNOWS ONLY TOO WELL...
WE GLIMPSE THE LARGER, TRUER PICTURE AS THROUGH A VEIL OF GAUZE AND OFTEN MISTAKE THE GAUZE FOR THE PICTURE ITSELF ...
YOU WILL FIND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ARE FAR MORE PRAGMATIC...
INDEED?
WHEN ONE IS IN COMMAND OF GREAT FORCES, ONE MUST VIEW THE WORLD IN TERMS OF ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE
GAUZE AND PICTURES ARE THE STUFF OF PHILOSOPHERS AND...
...FOLLOWERS.
BUT THE INTELLECTUAL REVOLUTION...
...CONTINUES ONLY SO LONG AS CEREBUS HOLDS THE REINS OF POWER...
HE IS THE FOCUS OF THE NEW REPUBLICANISM ...
THOUGH NOT ITS INSTIGATOR YOU MUST ADMIT...

CRISIS Nº THREE BALANCES

"Promo sheet by Arn Saba released in conjunction with page previous 2 pages."

- Dave Sim



"Richard Bruning's ad for CEREBUS No.46. You can see why I just sent him photocopies of the first five or six pages of each issue let him do whatever he wanted."

- Dave Sim

C E R E B U S ◆ 4 6
The Times
"Like No Other Comic"
VOL. CXXVII...No. 46
IEST, SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 1414
MONTHLY
CHAOS RULES!
'A Night In Iest'
By DAVE SIM
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CEREBUS #46 OUT IN JANUARY
REDUCED PRICE IN U.S.
Still Sideways
Fifth Annual Trilateral Summit
Recently-elected Prime Minister Cerebus discusses foreign policy with Lord Julius of Palnu and Duke Leonardi of New Sepra.
ABRAXAS/RB

"Invoice from Richard Bruning's ABRAXAS STUDIO for a half page ad done for Bill Loebs' JOURNEY."

- Dave Sim

ABRAXAS STUDIO

Richard Bruning
2 W. Mifflin #208
Madison, WI 53703
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Graphic Design • Typesetting • Camera Work • Photography • Illustration

NO. 194

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"Karen McKiel's first communication as Administrator of the company."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

Attn: Promotional Department

Hi, my name is Karen, and I am the administrator here at Aardvark-Vanaheim, Inc. In plain english, that means I am the one who takes care of all the problems involved in publishing. You know, lost books, damaged books, back issue orders, etc. Whatever the problem, I try to help out - as best I can, of course!

Anyway, today I need some help from you, our distributors. As you are probably unaware of, Dave Sim is tentatively planning another American Tour. This time around he would like to hit shops that he has not been to before; and in areas of the United States that he has not been seen in. Along with that, he is willing to go to shops that he's previously been in, (nobody is singled out) but he is very interested in reaching new areas.

What I am asking of you is - could you possibly send me a list of shops that your warehouse services? I would like to get in contact with whomever is in charge and see if they would be interested in having Dave Sim at their store.

I would greatly appreciate any information you would be willing to supply me with - or if that is not possible, please just have anyone interested call me at (519) 576-0610.

Thank you very much for your prompt attention to this matter.

Cordially yours,

Karen McKiel
Administrator, A-V Inc.,

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"It was crazy trying to sell thousands of copies of a portfolio even with a low price and 45 – not 48 – plates. Almost as crazy as the discount structure on NEIL THE HORSE and JOURNEY. There were probably only two distributors who could hit – let alone exceed – the 500 copy minimum. And that had been revised downward from 1,000!"

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

-2

* "The Colour Portfolio" (Cerebus) will be out in early spring. It will contain three stories (48 plates) entitled, "A Well-Equipped Bar", "Add One Mummified Bat" and "His First Sword". Art samples will be available to reviewers in about one month.

Corrections

Some prices listed in the new Cerebus split price announcement for the discount structure were incorrect.

The correct discount structure should be as follows:

For Cerebus (begining with #46)
Price - $1.40 U.S./ $1.60 Canada
Minimum order of 1,000
1,000 to 2,999 ..... 65% off (U.S. - .49 / Canada - .56)
3,000 and up ..... 70% off (U.S. - .42 / Canada - .48)

The discount structure on Arn Saba's "Neil the Horse" had a minimum listed as 1,000. This is incorrect and changes the discount structure as a whole. Both "Neil the Horse" by Arn Saba and "Journey" by Bill Loebs will have the same price and discount structure. It will be as follows:
Price: $1.40 U.S.
$1.60 Canada
Minimum order of 500.

500 to 999 ..... 60% off (U.S. - .56 / Canada - .64)
1,000 to 1,999 ..... 65% off (U.S. - .49 / Canada - .56)
2,000 and up ..... 70% off (U.S. - .42 / Canada - .48)

My apologies for the confusion on this matter. Hopefully this new information will help you with your orders.

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Update of plans for January 1983. Because we just "did" CEREBUS No.1 and pre-sold a bunch and then followed that up with selling another bunch to Phil Seuling, we never quite got the hang of "lead time" for letting people know that something new was coming out. We were also giving the creators – who wanted US to pay for all the promotion and advertising – too big a cut of the profits to actually be able to do anything effectively to help them. It was the downside of "Creator's Rights" definitely. If YOU get most of the money, you need to do MOST of your own promotion."

- Dave Sim

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM, INC.

AARDVARK-VANAHEIM UPDATE

January 1983

* Cerebus #46, which will be out the begining of January, will continue the after-election storyline. As you can see from the enclosed artwork, Dave will continue with the "side-ways" layout as begun with #44.

* Swords of Cerebus, Volume Two, which has been in big demand due to scarcity, will be reprinted. There will be no changes from the first printing. Shipping January 15th.

* "Journey" by Bill Loebs, has been re-scheduled from a February to a March release date. The reason for this is to be able to give the book more individual attention, and have a little more time to let people know about it.

* Sales on Michael T. Gilbert's "Strange Brew" have been strong. Due to this reaction Aardvark-Vanaheim and Michael T. Gilbert are begining talks on a possible all-Wraith or mostly-Wraith book for 1983.

* Ann Saba's "Neil the Horse" has been re-scheduled from it's January release date to February 15th. The reason for this is to give more time in printing and publicity.

* "The Cerebus Collector" has been started on. The section on the tour has been expanded to accomadate the inflow of sketches and photos we have on hand. Anyone who met us on the tour and wished to contribute with photos, photocopies of their sketches, or short write-ups are asked to contact Deni Sim at Aardvark-Vanaheim, Attn: Cerebus Collector, P.O. Box 1674, Station "C", Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, N2G 4R2.

BOX 1674 STATION 'C' KITCHENER ONTARIO N2G 4R2

"Fan letter from Jim Barber."

- Dave Sim

Dear Dave,

Soon after Cerebus 50 appeared on the shelves I knew that I had to send you something; so, soon after I'd bought Cerebus 50 I did the inclosed illustration. That was in June, it is now early in November and I'm finally sending it to you. Why I didn't send it sooner is too foolish to even get into but at any rate it is now yours. I truly hope you like it. If you don't then there is still no loss on my part; in my mind there is the knowledge that what I did is a sincere gesture to your abilities as an artist/story teller.

I cannot truthfully say that I've bought every issue you've turned out or gotten the meaning of every thing you've done. In time I'm sure that will all come but for now I'm happy in that there is much more to come. And even though you may be hard up to admit it, you are, in fact, as masterful an artist as Barry Windsor-Smith. In your own right you have put forth to us as wonderful a work as Barry's "Icarus" or "Pandora". You deserve the praise you're recieving, Mr. Sim, whether you believe it or not. That is why I did this picture for you; from one artist to another, the largest admiration I could show.

Shine on you crazy diamond,

Jim Barber

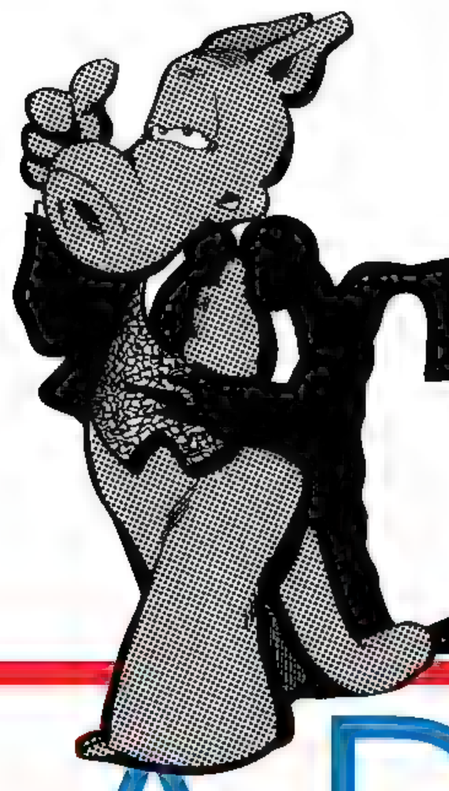
1346 E. Miner Rd.

Mayfield Hts., Ohio 44124

"Joshua's 1982 Christmas card."

- Dave Sim

TO GOOD OL' DAVE + WEND,
MERRY XMAS
HAPPY HANUKAH
AN SATURNALIA TOO...
Love
Joshua Quagmire
MY, IT'S SO NICE OF YOU YOUNG PEOPLE TO HELP SANTA OUT AT XMAS...
MERRY XMAS

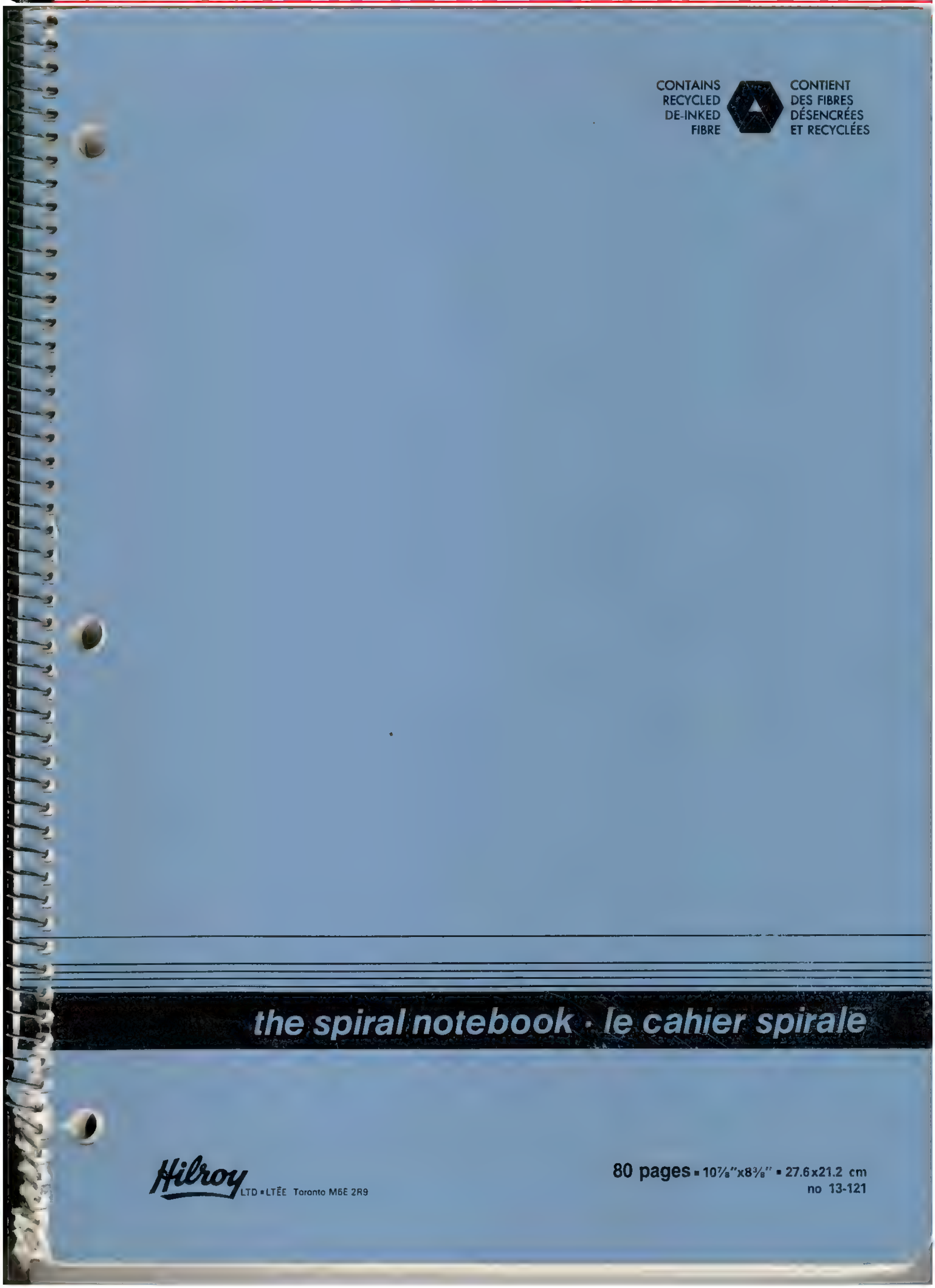


CEREBUS

ARCHIVE

NOTEBOOKS

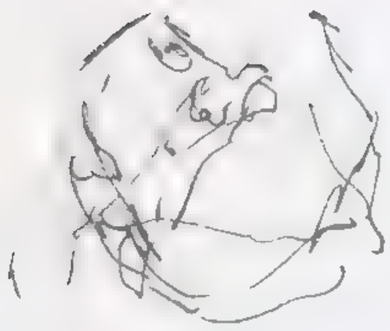
"Albatross Too"


CONTAINS RECYCLED DE-INKED FIBRE
CONTIENT DES FIBRES DÉSENCRÉES ET RECYCLÉES
the spiral notebook · le cahier spirale
Hilroy LTD • LTÉE Toronto M6E 2R9
80 pages • 10⅞"x8⅜" • 27.6x21.2 cm
no 13-121

I began using notebooks to plot CEREBUS beginning with issue 20. I called the notebook my "albatross" since it was always with me, a constant reminder of work I had to do. Plotting for HIGH SOCIETY began on page 135 of the 200-page "Albatross One" (although much plotting of the various political factions takes place on the earlier pages and on – now long gone – scraps of paper).

ALBATROSS, DIRTY PLEAGUE, DIRTY DREW, LORD
CUNNER FRIEND, SUENTEUS PO, ELF, LOONY 101.
LOONEY, GRAND INQUISITOR, MOON ROACH, TAKI
IDOLETTE, BASIC CLERK, JAKA, CONVICTIONS,
PIGTS; ARTIST-COLLECTOR, BRIAN MAC MUFIN, PRINCE
MINISTER, BLAICEUM,

SUENTEUS PO SHOWS UP AND TELLS HIM THE WHOLE
WORLD IS APT TO GO ANY TIME NOW.
CEREBUS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO FEAR BUT POVERTY.--THE TROOPS ARE DOING
THEIR JOB
REPORTS GET WORSE
CEREBUS ELECTED
THEY TRY TO TAKE IT BACK

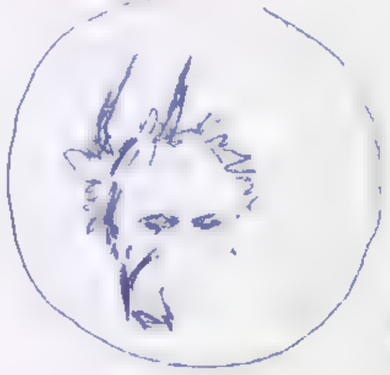


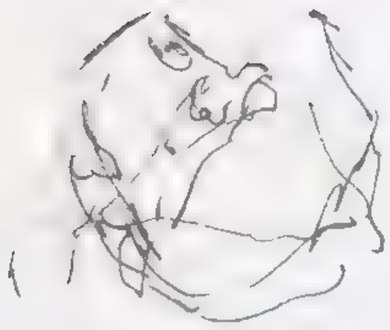
HSANB 1/38 - I was already moving, mentally, into the "Campaign" section of the storyline and wanted to see what kind of a cast I would have for Cerebus' entourage. I thought I'd start with everyone I had already introduced since the start of HIGH SOCIETY:

continued...

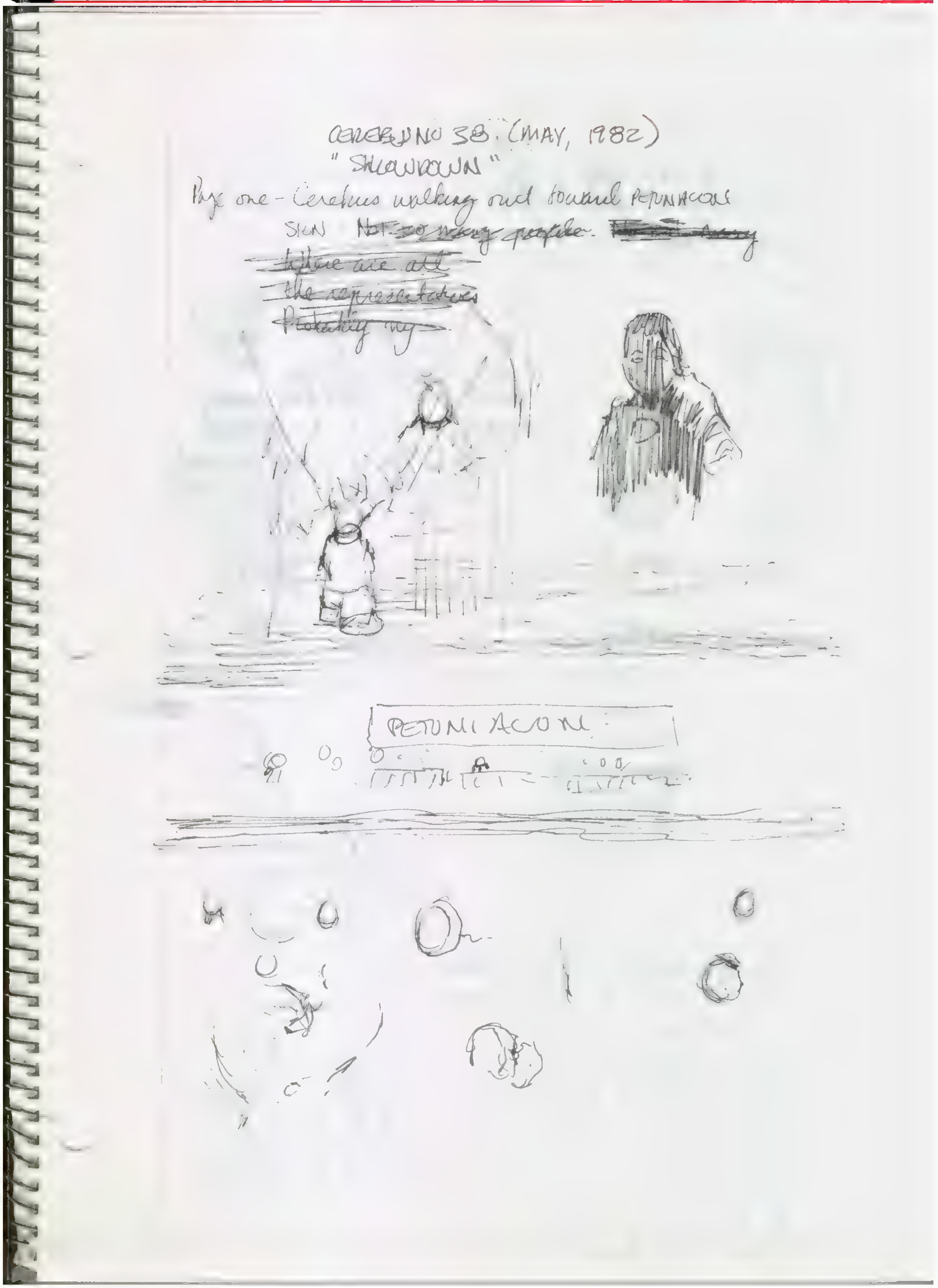
ALBATROSS, DIRTY FLEAGLE, DIRTY DREW, HOTEL
OWNER FRIEND, SUENTEUS PO, ELF, HOLLAND M.
HADDEN, GRAND INQUISITOR, MOON ROACH, TAXI
DRIVER, DESK CLERK, JAKA, CONNIPTINS,
PIGTS, ARTIST-COLLECTOR, BRAN MAK MUFIN, PRIME
MINISTER, BLAKELY,

SUENTEUS PO SHOWS UP AND TELLS HIM THE WORLD
WORLD IS APT TO GO ~~ANY~~ TIME NOW.
CEREBUS ON THE CAMPAIGN TRAIL, YOU HAVE NOTHING
TO FEAR BUT POVERTY.--THE TROOPS ARE DOING
THEIR JOB
REPORTS GET WORSE
CEREBUS ELECTED
THEY TRY TO TAKE IT BACK

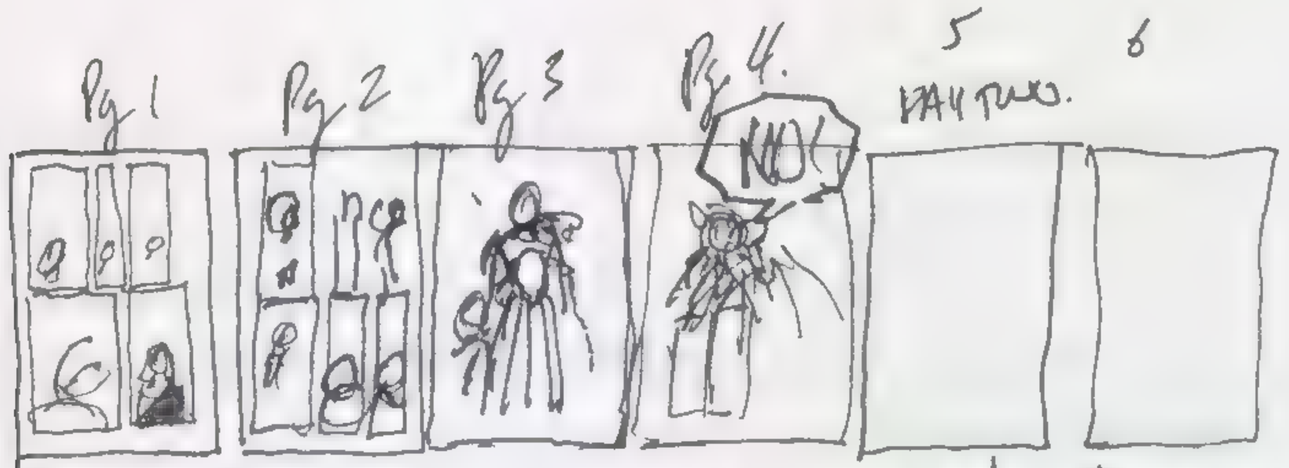




"Albatross, Dirty Fleagle, Dirty Drew, Hotel Owner Friend, Suenteus Po, Elf, Holland M. Hadden, Grand Inquisitor, Moon Roach, Taxi Driver, Desk Clerk, Jaka, the Conniptins, Pigts, Artist-Collector, Bran Mak Mufin, Prime Minister, Blakely,"
Sketch of the cover of No.38 at the bottom of the page – Elrod (standing at an easel and doing a bunny sketch) and the Representatives reacting as Cerebus comes crashing through the door.



HSANB 2/38 - I definitely wanted to start with a dream sequence of some kind. Cerebus dreaming that he was at Petuniacon.



Late again. and Cerebus worked to go down [illegible] early and found he'd taken to... ...John.

Cerebus. I came back! Actually...

[illegible] where are you?

You're back! Astoria.

What'd she doing here?! Cerebus.

[illegible] She'll Run Everything!

K tnk

Will you get dressed! We're late.

All the things he missed last night while he does two new sketches.

More reps coming in everyone talking about the great time.

[illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

[illegible] [illegible]

Elrod! Here!

Zip!

[illegible]

JAICA!

the two smartass guys come back. trickle back in talking about his swordplay. Really watching it in it... Strength. That's what we need! Uh... The last thing we need is another fool bureaucrat from Palnu.

HSANB 3/38 - Just rough ideas – "the two smartass guys come back. Trickle in talking about his [Elrod's] swordplay" "Strength, That's what we need!" "The last thing we need is another fool bureaucrat from Palnu."

⑧ Elrod's giving a speech..
place empties Cerebus finishes letter to
Jaka and gives it to one of the hotel
employees.

⑨ time for the graft: boon or blessing panel
hustle hustle

Cerebus tries to tell his lest renegotiating
ler loan payments joke to top an Elrod joke
panel looks more like -- I say it looks
more like ~~Cerebus~~ Fasionia playing
your room bill to me, son.

EL ROD
EL ROD

⑫ ~~Cerebus is going to~~

Well, son -- Ah look at it
this way -- it takes a strong
man ~~to walk~~ to ~~walk away~~
walk away from a fight

~~Ah, got made chairman
funny mah guested
Mockish.~~

It takes, I say, it takes
an even stronger man
t'win that fight.

CLAP CLAP
CLAPPERS

K'Cor is bankrupt.
has to moderate
the panel in order
to get a three month
extension on his interest
payments to Lord Julius.

And it takes someone even
stronga ~~than~~ to win the
fight and then walk away

CLAP CLAP
CLAP CLAP

And it takes an even stronger
man to win the fight, walk away
and come back and win it again!

CLAPPER CLAP

ETCOT RA
ETCOT RA
ETCOT RA

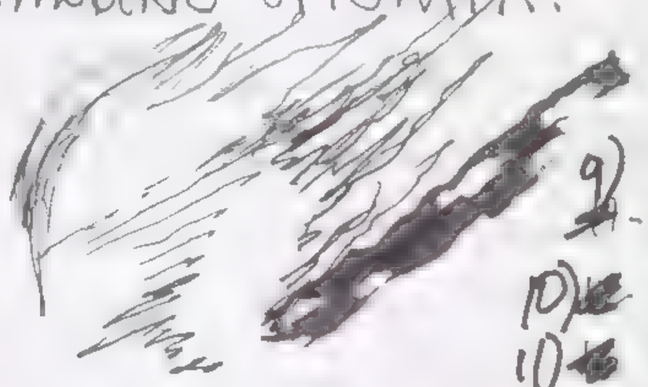
(And -- ah - so on) - etcetera, that is.

HSANB 4/38 - This is mostly finished dialogue. It helped to come up with the "transcript" idea. I could fit more comedy into four pages without having to worry about the pacing. The "transcript" idea didn't come right away, though.
"K'Cor is bankrupt. [H]as to moderate the panel in order to get three-month extension on his interest payments to Lord Julius."
Do we really need to know WHY K'Cor is moderating a panel?

BEFORE ISSUE #50

(1) PARTY WITH PEOPLE GOING IN AND OUT. MOON ROACH IS FREAKING OUT AND BECOMING DIFFERENT SUPER-HEROES EVERY FEW MINUTES.

(2) TOUR THROUGH THE LEVELS OF THE REGENCY AFTER SMOKING OPIUM!!..



An hour later

still later

sometime after that

5) sitting at desk furiously letter
guy[illegible] come to get him for panel
explains what is going on
in PCA (sketches, check, design)
7) enters while question is being asked
8) Kelly goes to reception Edwards stops him

9) ~~X~~ - place empties crashes by himself
10) ~~X~~ undercover smoke bombs
11) ~~X~~ Edwards back in room playing SMASH and right Atkins - if the people vote.
12) ~~X~~ Edwards trying to talk out...
13) ~~X~~ tentatively shakes CEREBUS what does
~~X~~ Cerebus turn finally goes in

6) ~~X~~ panel is almost over - they're down to the questions and answer period.. under about instructions
~~X~~ I'm afraid you haven't much of a chance with our defenses being as low as they are, the people want a ~~professional~~ ~~skilled~~ powerful swordsman instead of a lieutenant.

15) Cerebus! what do you think you're doing

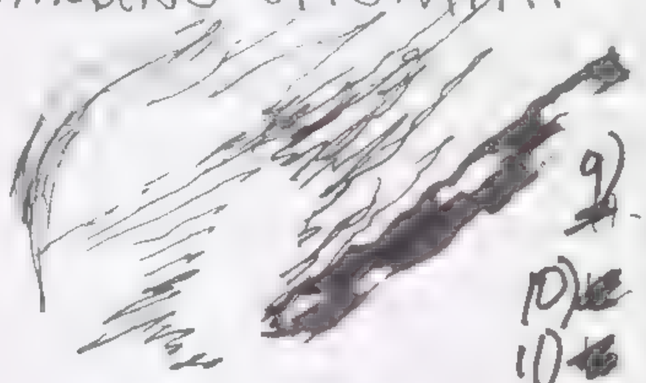
Adonis
make you pissi
quarter
they'll say it was
luck -- or cheating
and you'll be arrested
for killing the last ruler of Melvibone

HSANB 5/38 - "Party with people going in and out. Moon Roach is freaking out and becoming different super-heroes every few minutes." Good idea but I wouldn't get around to using it for a while. "Tour through the levels of The Regency after smoking opium" Bad idea.
My handwriting is barely legible because I know I'm not "getting it". I'm just writing so I feel like I'm getting somewhere.

BEFORE ISSUE #50

(1) PARTY WITH PEOPLE GOING IN AND OUT. MOON ROACH IS FREAKING OUT AND BECOMING DIFFERENT SUPER-HEROES EVERY FEW MINUTES.

(2) TOUR THROUGH THE LEVELS OF THE REGENCY AFTER SMOKING OPIUM!!..



An hour later

still later

sometime after that

5) sitting at desk finishing letter
guy comes to get him for panel
everyone wonders what is going on
in D&R (sketches, church, dungeon)
7) artsy whole question is baby adept
8) Kelly goes to reception Elrod stops him

9) -place empties Cerebus key bracelet
10) undresses smokes table
11) Elrod back in room playing SMASH and right Alkins - if the people vote.
12) Elrod begins to talk out;...
13) tentatively asks CEREBUS what does
Cerebus turn finally goes in

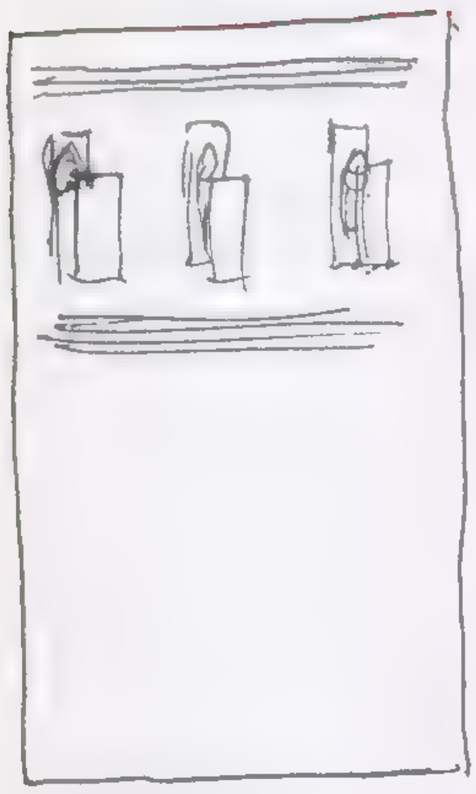
6) panel is almost over - they're down to the questions and answer period.. under about instructions
I'm afraid you haven't much of a chance with so many defenses being as low as they are, the people want a ~~professional~~ ~~add~~ powerful swordsman instead of a lieutenant.

15) Cerebus! what do you think you're doing

Actions
make you pause
wonder
they'll say it was
luck -- or cheating
and you'll be arrested
for killing the last ruler of Melvibone

HSANB 6/38 - The three-panel static shot I've sketched here of Cerebus at his lectern would evolve into pages 12 and 13. I've got a good mental picture of how it starts, anyway – Cerebus waking up from the nightmare and encountering the two smart asses when he gets to his table. Just not getting anything particularly funny. "Iest needs Cerebus about as much as a Hsiffy needs a salad fork." "A vote for Elrod is a vote for massive bailout funds from Palnu."

continued...



CEREBUS WAS A NIGHTMARE
WAKE UP! 'SOKAY 'SOKAY.
C'MON WE'RE ALREADY LATE
TRY TO BE NICE TODAY
JERKS CORNER UMM-- WANT
TO GO AND SEE ERNO? NO.
CEREBUS AT HIS TABLE.
WOW! WHAT A KEYNOTE
ADDRESS.. "~~WHEN THEY COME~~
~~BARBARIANS COME OVER THE~~
~~WALLS, A BARBARIAN IS GOING~~
~~TO BE ABOUT AS USEFUL AS~~
~~A PARASOL OR A~~
CEREBUS
"I JUST NEEDS ~~ANOTHER SINGLE~~ ABOUT AS MUCH AS. ~~A SINGLE A TWEED AN ONION NEED~~
~~NEED THE REAL KING HERE~~ ~~DOG NEED OF FOOD~~
~~"FOOD, FOOD!~~" A HSIFFY NEEDS A SALAD FORK"
"A VOTE FOR ERNO IS A VOTE FOR ~~SOME~~
~~SOME~~ MASSIVE BAILOUT FUNDS FROM PALNU."
"

~~ARE OF~~ REPRESENTATIVES STARTING TO SAY "I--SAY" AND
"BLANK, THAT IS"

"NICE BOY, BUT HE'S GOT ALL THE ~~CHARISMA~~ CHARM
OF ~~A~~ A T'GITAN

INDIVIDUAL PAGES... INDICATING

'Representatives start to say 'I say' and '[BLANK], that is.'" That was good, that was usable. It wasn't an actual joke but it would be a good running gag

HSANB 7/38 - I forget what this is. Population density map of Palnu and area? Something like that.

PAGE (5) CEREBUS IN HIS ROOM WAITING FOR REPRESENTATIVES
(6) SOMEONE FINALLY COMES "YOU WEREN'T HERE WHEN WE CAME TO GET YOU" "THE GRAFT BOON OR BLESSING" PANEL ~~IS UNFORTUNATELY NOT READY~~ IS ALMOST FINISHED.. IF WE LUCKY WE CAN GET THERE BEFORE THE QUESTION AND ANSWER ~~PERIOD~~ PART IS OVER....

(7)

9 AND 10

(11) BACK TO HIS ROOM ~~SLEEPING~~ PEOPLE LEAVING TALKING ABOUT THEIR FAVOURITE QUOTES.

10) PUSHES IT TOO FAR AND LORD JULIUS QUICKLY DISSOLVES THE PANEL

(12) STILL RAVING, BUT FINDING TIME TO ASK FOR SKETCHES CEREBUS GETTING ANGRIER AND ANGRIER

(13) SMASH SMASH RIPPING CLOTHES OFF END WITH REACTION SHOT.

(14) ~~SH~~ Ethrod saying off SMASH All right Mikoi Act 6 or. Why the impertinence, pushy that is... You should .. I say... You should teach him a lesson, Ethrod old boy. ~~How dare he!~~ Ah-- Ah sorry, Ah don't like t'take advantage Insult Chip Get him Get him Ethrod saying in

(15) Cerebus What are you doing Argument with Actaeon

(16) !! Then reporter factotum got enough votes to oust you nominated ~~for second Minister~~ by a new party Leh? 2nd candidate

~~The Prime Minister's~~ With the complete ~~loss~~ collapse of the P.M.'s government over his misappropriation

HSANB 8/38 - I'm still trying to figure out how to draw the entire "Graft: Boon or Blessing" panel. As soon as I get the idea of the transcripts I'll be fine.
Working out the rest of it but in such rough form I'm not even bothering to write legibly: i.e. [page] 13: Smash Smash ripping clothes off end with reaction shot.

of funds....
"...You will probably be elected by a substantial majority.
The prime minister's salary of ~~£207~~ $8,000 crowns per year is augmented by a summer home in the hills, a winter residence, office building, private game preserve and with 12 departments and with a staff of twenty three thousand employees

there is one hitch...
you will have to apologize to Elrod

It doesn't matter what you say Astoria. a purple liquor collection
Cerebus is going to cut him into inch square of the finest
Albino chunks. ~~whorehouses~~ wines, spirits
And what will that accomplish?
If Lert wants a swordsman... they'll
have the best. Cerebus is the best
panel 1
3 Now absolutely stirring.. ~~If you threaten a~~
~~little boy's mother will be accused~~
~~of being a hooker and murder, arrested, tried~~
~~and hanged.~~
~~Mickey~~ ~~If they do~~ With any luck, they'll wait
for a trial and not lynch you right away.
~~Cerebus could beat the demon holding~~
a sword in his mouth...
It's not Elrod, it's the idea of Elrod - a
glamorous freelance swordsman, who
forsook his vision statement etcetera... it's the kind of
~~that's the people's champion. Let him~~ glop the arrogance
~~let him be the~~ ~~enemy~~ duplor
~~Cerebus is going to~~ ~~finished bragging~~ Cerebus
gets by the slightest
If Cerebus kills him ~~they will have~~
~~their~~

HSANB 9/38 - Astoria tempts Cerebus away from killing Elrod.

~~Cerebus is finished~~

~~And~~ Well Cerebus doesn't want to be prime minister

1) prime ministers salary is one hundred thousand crowns a year... but doesn't change how Cerebus feels... it includes a summer home in the hills with forty acres of landscaped gardens, ~~overlooking the river~~ a winter home with ~~eighty five~~ sixty rooms overlooking the river

How about THAT?

Cerebus doesn't intend to let Elrod fool everyone but...

look Cerebus is going to hell (Not Alone and that's all there is ")

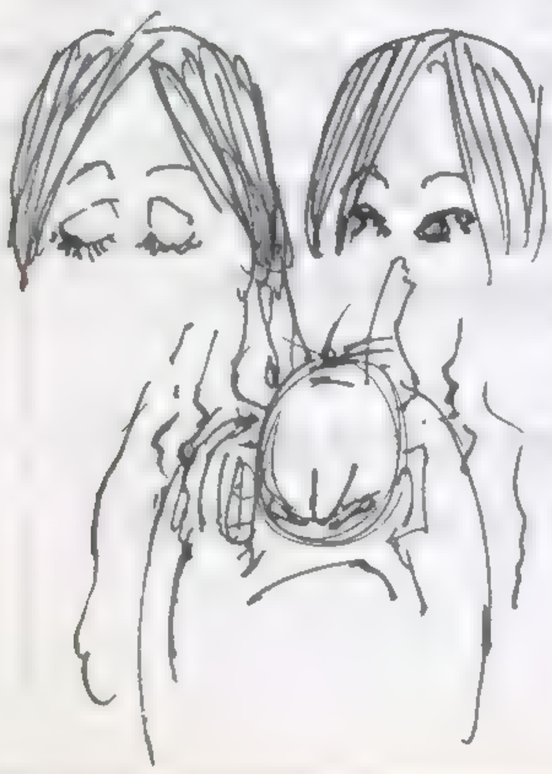
Look Cerebus is going to hell (Not Alone and that's all there is ")

Every manner of rare and exotic foodstuffs, spices, cured and smoked meats ~~and~~ ~~foodstuffs~~ Listen

The finest collection of wines, spirits and liqueurs on the continent

Okay! Okay! What does Cerebus have to do...

Also the prime minister exercises complete control over ~~the~~, ~~the~~ 3,000 bureaucrats, an army of 50,000 mercenaries, a parliamentary staff of two hundred bureaucrats and a personal entourage of one hundred secretaries, chauffeurs, secretaries and cabinet ministers



Go look to Elrod's hospitality room and admit he's a better swordsman

Forget it! Cerebus would just love to get lynched.

okay you win

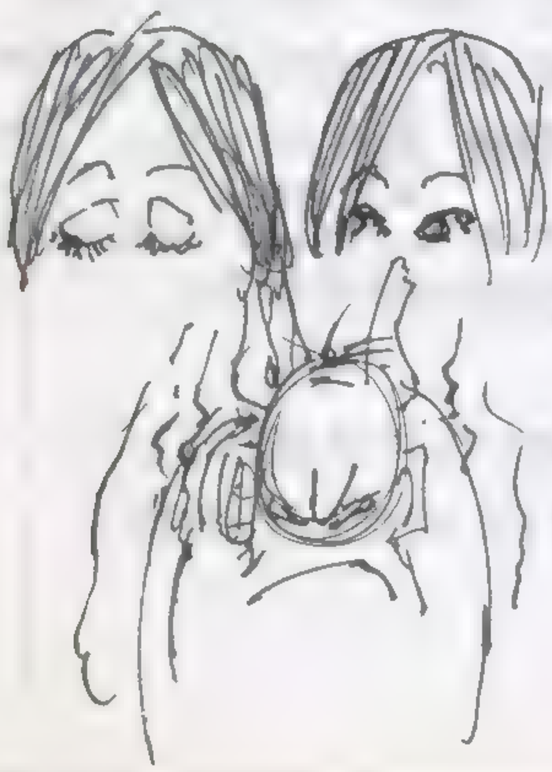
HSANB 10/38 - More Astoria tempting Cerebus away from killing Elrod including a quick sketch of the bottom of page 19. Charles Schulz's dictum: a big part of cartooning is just drawing funny pictures.

~~Cerebus is finished~~ ~~And~~ Well Cerebus doesn't want to be prime minister

1) prime ministers salary is one hundred thousand crowns a year... How decent THAT?
but doesn't change how Cerebus feels... Cerebus doesn't intend to let Elrod fool everyone but...
it includes a summer home in the hills with forty acres of landscaped gardens,
~~a winter home overlooking the river~~
with ~~eighty five~~ sixty rooms overlooking the river
look Cerebus is going to hell (Not Alice and that's all there is ...)
every manner of rare and exotic foodstuffs, spices, cured and smoked meats ~~and~~
~~foodstuffs~~ Listen

The finest collection of wines, spirits and liqueurs on the continent

Okay! Okay! What does Cerebus have to do...
Also the prime minister exercises complete control over ~~the~~, ~~the~~ 3,000 bureaucrats, an army of 50,000 mercenaries, a parliamentary staff of two hundred bureaucrats and a personal entourage of one hundred secretaries, chauffeurs, secretaries and cabinet ministers



Go look to Elrod's Hospitality room and admit he's a better swordsman

Forget it! Cerebus would just love to get lynched.

okay you win

HSANB 11/38 - I'd get stray thoughts that had nothing to do with the story I was working on:
[SUENTEUS PO:] Before the Pigts there was nothing.
[CIRIN:] Before the Pigts there were the mothers of the Pigts.

continued...

~~Cerebus is finished~~

~~And~~ Well Cerebus doesn't want to be prime minister

1) prime ministers salary is one hundred thousand crowns a year... but doesn't change how Cerebus feels... it includes a summer home in the hills with forty acres of landscaped gardens, ~~overlooking the river~~ a winter home with ~~eighty five~~ sixty rooms overlooking the river look Cerebus is going to hell (but Alice and that's all there is) every manner of rare and exotic foodstuffs, spices, cured and smoked meats ~~and~~ ~~foodstuffs~~ Listen

The finest collection of wines, spirits and liqueurs on the continent

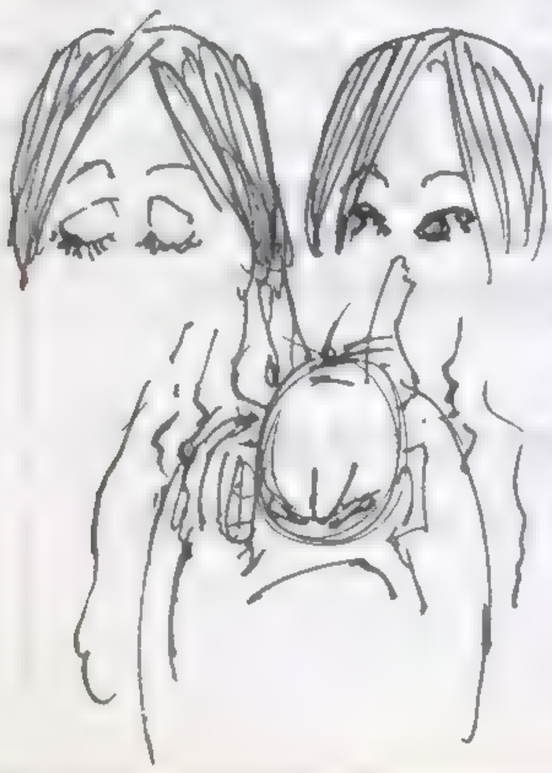
Okay! Okay! What does Cerebus have to do...

Also the prime minister exercises complete control over ~~the~~, ~~the~~ 3,000 bureaucrats, an army of 50,000 mercenaries, a parliamentary staff of two hundred functionaries and a personal entourage of one hundred secretaries, chauffeurs, secretaries and cabinet ministers

How about THAT!

Now about let Elrod fool everyone but...

"



Go back to Elrod's hospitality room and admit he's a better swordsman

Forget it! Cerebus would just have to get hijacked.

okay you win

That's great but I need some HUMOUR! "Money doesn't work" is quite astute and clever but it's not particularly funny. The transcript idea finally comes to me halfway down the page and I write "2 pages" twice in the margin.

Before the Pigts there was nothing.
Before the Pigts there were the mothers of the Pigts.

#38 Page number 10 High Society
PART II

"MONEY QUESN'T WORK"

(5) COME AND GET HIM FOR PANEL... JUST BEFORE HE GOES ON... MAY I SAY ON BEHALF OF THE STAFF THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED WORKING YOU WERE AND WE HOPE YOU ARE AS HAPPY ~~IN YOUR NEW POSITION~~ WHEREVER YOU GO WHEN... THAT IS, WHEN ELROD...

2 pages (6) TRANSCRIPT. ANNOTATED BY THE CHURCH. POSSIBLE HERESY CHARGES (7) AGAINST CEREBUS FOR SPECIFIC COMMENTS.

2 pages (8) BACK IN THE ROOM EVERYONE RAVING ABOUT ELROD STILL WANT (9) AUTOGRAPHS, SKETCHES OF ROOKS

(10) GRAFFT BOOK OR BLESSING PAPER TRANSCRIPT.

(11)

(12) BACK TO OUR ROOM ~~DOUBLE CHECK~~ NO ONE THERE ANOTHER SERVANT COMES BY AND TELLS CEREBUS HOW ~~HE~~ UNFAIR HE THINKS IT IS THAT AN ACCOMPLISHED PALMAN CABINET MINISTER WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO TRY AND HELP JEST ESCAPE THE STRANGLEHOLDS OF THE GRAND INQUISITOR SHOULD END UP WITH NO REPS ON HIS SIDE WHILE THAT DECADENT THUG WITH NAUGHT TO RECOMMEND HIM BUT ~~BATTLEFIELDS STREWN WITH BODIES AND~~ HIS ~~HER~~ MURDER ~~ETC~~ THOUSANDS OF OTHER BARBARIANS AND THUGS HAS THEM ALL BEHIND HIM ABILITY TO WELL I JUST DON'T

(13) IT'S NOT FAIR. LARGE PANEL OF ALBINO HOUDING COURT. ~~DOOR... I'VE SPOKEN OUT OF~~ THEM

(14) ~~THEN~~ AND SO... CEREBUS CHALLENGES HIM ELROD TRIES TO BACK OUT

(15) FINALLY DOWN TO IT... ~~BOOK~~ THE NECK ARE YOU DOING CEREBUS WILL BE BACK IN A MINUTE

HSANB 12/38 - Astoria able to keep him on a short leash was pretty funny. In the bottom left I have an IDEA for a joke: when he gives in and agrees to admit that Elrod is the better swordsman.
ASTORIA: Yes. But first go and put some clothes on – you look like some kind of homicidal street urchin.

continued...

Before the Pigs there was nothing.
Before the Pigs there were the mothers of the Pigs.

#38 Page number 10 High Society
PART II

"MONEY DOESN'T WORK"

(5) COME AND GET WUM FOK PANEL... JUST BEFORE WE GOES ON... MAY I SAY ON BEWAF OF THE STAFF THAT WE HAVE ENJOYED WAVING YOU WERE AND WE WOPE YOU ARE AS WAPPY ~~AS YOU'RE NOW POSITION~~ WHEREVER YOU GO WHEN... THAT IS, WHEN EWOD...

2 pgs (6) TRANSCRIPT. ANNOTATED BY THE CHURCH. POSSIBLE HERESY CHARGES
(7) AGAINST CEREBUS FOR SPECIFIC COMMENTS.

2 pgs (8) BACK IN THE ROOM EVERYONE RAVING ABOUT EWOD & STILL WANT
(9) AUTOGRAPHS, SKETCHES OF ROOKS
(10) GRAFT BOOK OR BLESSING PAPER TRANSCRIPT.
(11)

(12) BACK TO OWN ROOM ~~DOUBLE CHECK~~ NO ONE THERE ANOTHER SERVANT COMES BY AND TELLS CEREBUS HOW ~~HE~~ UNFAIR HE THINKS IT IS THAT AN ACCOMPLISHED PALMAN CABINET MINISTER WHO RISKED HIS LIFE TO TRY AND HELP JEST ESCAPE THE STRANGLEHOLDS OF THE GRAND INQUISITOR SHOULD END UP WITH NO REPS ON HIS SIDE WHILE THAT DECADENT THUG WITH NAUGHT TO RECOMMEND HIM BUT ~~BATTLEFIELDS STREWN WITH BODIES AND~~ HIS ~~HIS~~ MURDER ~~HE~~ THOUSANDS OF OTHER BARBARIANS AND THUGS HAS THEM ABILITY TO ALL BEHIND HIM WELL I JUST DON'T KNOW ~~DOES... I'VE SPOKEN OUT OF~~

(13) IT'S NOT FAIR. LARGE PANEL OF ALBINO HOODING COURT. THEM
(14) ~~FINALLY~~ AND SO... CEREBUS CHALLENGES HIM EWOD TRIES TO BACK OUT
(15) FINALLY DOWN TO IT... HOLDS THE NECK SAYS YOU DOING CEREBUS WILL BE BACK IN A MINUTE

But it's just an IDEA – centred on the fact that Astoria has never seen him in his barbarian vest and medallions with a sword. "Street urchin" wasn't it. What would he look like to Astoria in his vest and medallions and waving a sword around? I couldn't get it, but there's a good line in there somewhere: "homicidal something something."

(14)

ASTORIA

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY WAVES

YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING...

~~BUT I LOVE THE CLOTHES~~

POINT ONE; THE PRIME MINISTER'S GOVERNMENT WILL COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS DUE TO GROSS ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT.

YOU'LL BE LYNCHED IF YOU SO MUCH AS CHANGE THE PAINT IN ELROD'S HAIR

POINT TWO; I HOPE A COALITION OF DISAFFECTED GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WHO WANT YOU TO FORM A NEW PARTY AND RUN FOR PRIME MINISTER

(15)

yes.

(17) But first go and put some CLOTHES on -- you look insane and stop homicidal street mediun

CEREBUS

YOU TOLD CEREBUS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING...

CEREBUS ISN'T GOING TO SAY A WORD...

CEREBUS IS JUST GOING TO CUT ELROD INTO LITTLE-ALBINO-CHUNKS...

CEREBUS IS FINISHED AS RUNNING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE ANYWAY...

CEREBUS KEEPS WEARING ABOUT HOW GREAT ELROD IS... WELL IF THEY WANT A SWIMSUIT MAN CEREBUS WILL SHOW THEM A REAL ~~MAN~~ ONE...

CEREBUS DOESN'T CARE ABOUT...

PRIME MINISTER?

(BEAT)

(BEAT)

WHEN CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO BE PRIME MINISTER, ~~SEE~~

HSANB 13/38 - rough dialogue for page 20 of issue 38 and – uncharacteristically – starting to write No.39 before I had finished No.38. "Money Doesn't Work". I was still tempted to use it but it seemed more inherently clever in itself than it did as a story title – and seemed at odds with what was going on in the story, where money seemed very much TO work.

continued...

(14)

ASTORIA

I THOUGHT I TOLD YOU NOT TO MAKE ANY WAVES

YOU'LL RUIN EVERYTHING...

~~BUT I UNDERSTOOD CLOTHES~~

POINT ONE; THE PRIME MINISTER'S GOVERNMENT IS WILL COLLAPSE WITHIN DAYS DUE TO GROSS ECONOMIC MISMANAGEMENT.

YOU'LL BE LYNCHED IF YOU SO MUCH AS CHANGE THE PAINT IN EUROD'S HAIR

POINT TWO; I HAVE A COALITION OF DISAFFECTED GOVERNMENT MEMBERS AND HIGH PROFILE MEMBERS OF THE OPPOSITION WHO WANT YOU TO FORM A NEW PARTY AND RUN FOR PRIME MINISTER

(15)

yes.

(16) But first go and put some CLOTHES on -- you look insane like off homicidal street walkin

CEREBUS

YOU TOLD CEREBUS NOT TO SAY ANYTHING...

CEREBUS ISN'T GOING TO SAY A WORD...

CEREBUS IS JUST GOING TO CUT EUROD INTO LITTLE-ALBINO-CHUNKS...

CEREBUS IS FINISHED AS RANKING DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIVE ANYWAY...

CEREBUS KEEPS WEARING ABOUT HOW GREAT EUROD IS... WELL IF THEY WANT A SWIMSUIT MAN CEREBUS WILL SHOW THEM A REAL ~~MAN~~ ONE...

CEREBUS DOESN'T CARE ABOUT...

PRIME MINISTER?

(BEAT)

(BEAT)

WHEN CEREBUS DOESN'T WANT TO BE PRIME MINISTER, ~~SEE~~

I originally had Bran Mak Mufin come wandering in when Astoria had wandered out.
BRAN: The history of the world is marked by moments of profound insight...or[,] to put it another way, marked by moments of conventional wisdom augmented by a sense of profundity, a sense of larger purpose which serves to clear away the obscuring clouds of conventionality[,] leaving "truth" or its closest approximat[ion] for ????

CEREBUS: Huh?

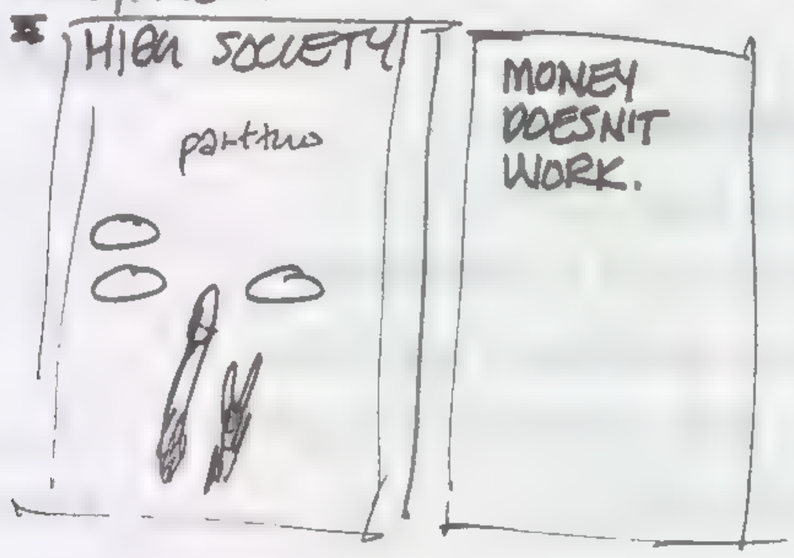
BRAN: The kind of conventional wisdom involved in.

continued...

(18) - a bottle of your best BOREALIS whiskey
- a ~~cab~~ taxi and driver at the East Entrance
- ~~A~~ twenty ounces for a hefty pound sack of flour
- tell him Cerebus will be there in a few minutes

GRAFFT-BOOK OR BLESS 16 CEREBUS, EUROD, LORD JULUS
US AND THEM - HOW TO KEEP "THEM" OUT. CEREBUS, EUROD, K'CHOK, IEST'S CAPTAIN OF THE MILITIA.

#39 (JUNE, 1982)



Astoria going to get some big-wigs want here Bran Mak Morn comes by and talks to him about how they do what they do... It was your lesson on the

The history of the world is marked by moments of profound insight... or to put it another way, marked by moments of conventional wisdom augmented by a sense of profundity, a sense of large purpose which serves to clear away the ~~clouds~~ obscuring clouds of ~~the world~~ ~~conventionality~~ conventionality ~~and~~ leaving "truth" or its closest approximate for accuracy

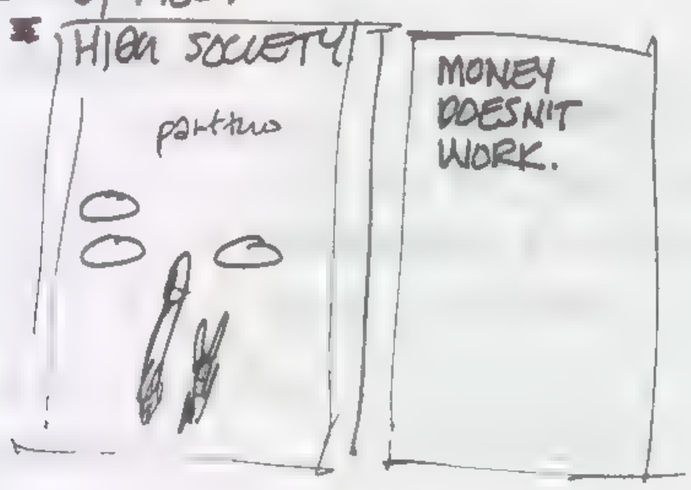
Huh?
The kind of conventional wisdom involved in

HSANB 14/38 - [continued] smashing a stone artifact. It was a gesture which was profound only in the context of the moment. We had kept the statue through unnumbered generations, we worshipped it as a sign that one day you would come.
BRAN: You arrive, smash the statue and leave.
BRAN: Once we questioned the validity of a superior race existing in subterranean caves and... *continued...*

(18) - a bottle of your best BOREALYNX whiskey
- a ~~cab~~ taxi and driver at the East Entrance
- ~~Ff~~ twenty ounces for a fifty pound sack of flour
- tell him Cerebus will be there in a few minutes

GRAFT-BOOK OR BLESSING CEREBUS, EUROD, LORD JULIUS
US AND THEM-HOW TO KEEP "THEM" OUT. CEREBUS, EURUD, K'CHOR, IEST'S CAPTAIN OF THE MILITIA.

#39 (JUNE, 1982)



Astoria going to get some big-wigs wait here
Bran Mak Muffin comes by and talks to him about how they do what they do... It was your lesson on the

The history of the world is marked by moments of profound insight... or to put it another way, marked by moments of conventional wisdom augmented by a sense of profundity, a sense of large purpose which serves to clear away the ~~dross of~~ obscuring clouds of ~~the only~~ ~~conventionality~~ conventionality ~~and~~ leaving "truth" or its closest approximate for accuracy

Hah!?
The kind of conventional wisdom involved in worshipping a large stone artifact...an artifact of nearly unimaginable antiquity[,] but a mere artifact in spite of [that]...it became apparent what you were trying to say was 'Go out into the world and seize it for yourselves. You've been waiting for me, but you haven't done anything to prepare'.

BRAN: Once we were out here, the message was even clearer still[:] the Pigts have built an interlocking four[-]city network of loans and investments set up like dominoes...the first one goes...the civilization goes...when the smoke clears[,] we will await your decision to...

It was way too long-winded and too unfunny for the way the story was going, but it was something I had to do – as you've seen – on many occasions: write out a full long-winded explanation of something so it was out of my way, mentally, and then I could get to what I needed to get to: like the outline of the rest of the issues in HIGH SOCIETY (with the exception of "The Deciding Vote" in No.44 and whatever the heck I was going to do in No.39).

smashing a stone artifact
~~Like Geoffrey Sr~~
It was a gesture which was profound
only in the context of the moment.
We had kept the statue through
unremembered generations, we worshipped
it as a sign that one day you
would come...
You arrive, smash the statue
and leave...
~~It paved for us the question of~~
~~obsessively held attitudes~~
Once we questioned the validity
of a unique race existing in
subterranean caves and worshipping
a large ~~piece of~~ stone artifact.

... an artifact of nearly unimaginable
antiquity

but a mere artifact in spite of it

IT BECAME APPARENT WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY WAS "GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELVES... YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME, BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO PREPARE"

THE PIGS HAVE BUILT AN INTERLOCKING FOUR CITY NETWORK OF LOANS AND INVESTMENTS SET UP LIKE DOMINOES... THE FIRST ONE GOES... THE CIVILISATION GOES... WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS WE WILL AWAIT YOUR DECISION TO

ONCE WE WERE OUT WERE THE MESSAGE WAS EVEN CLEARER STILL

CEREBUS' SIX CRUISES ELECTION CAMPAIGN CAMPAIGN CAMPAIGN

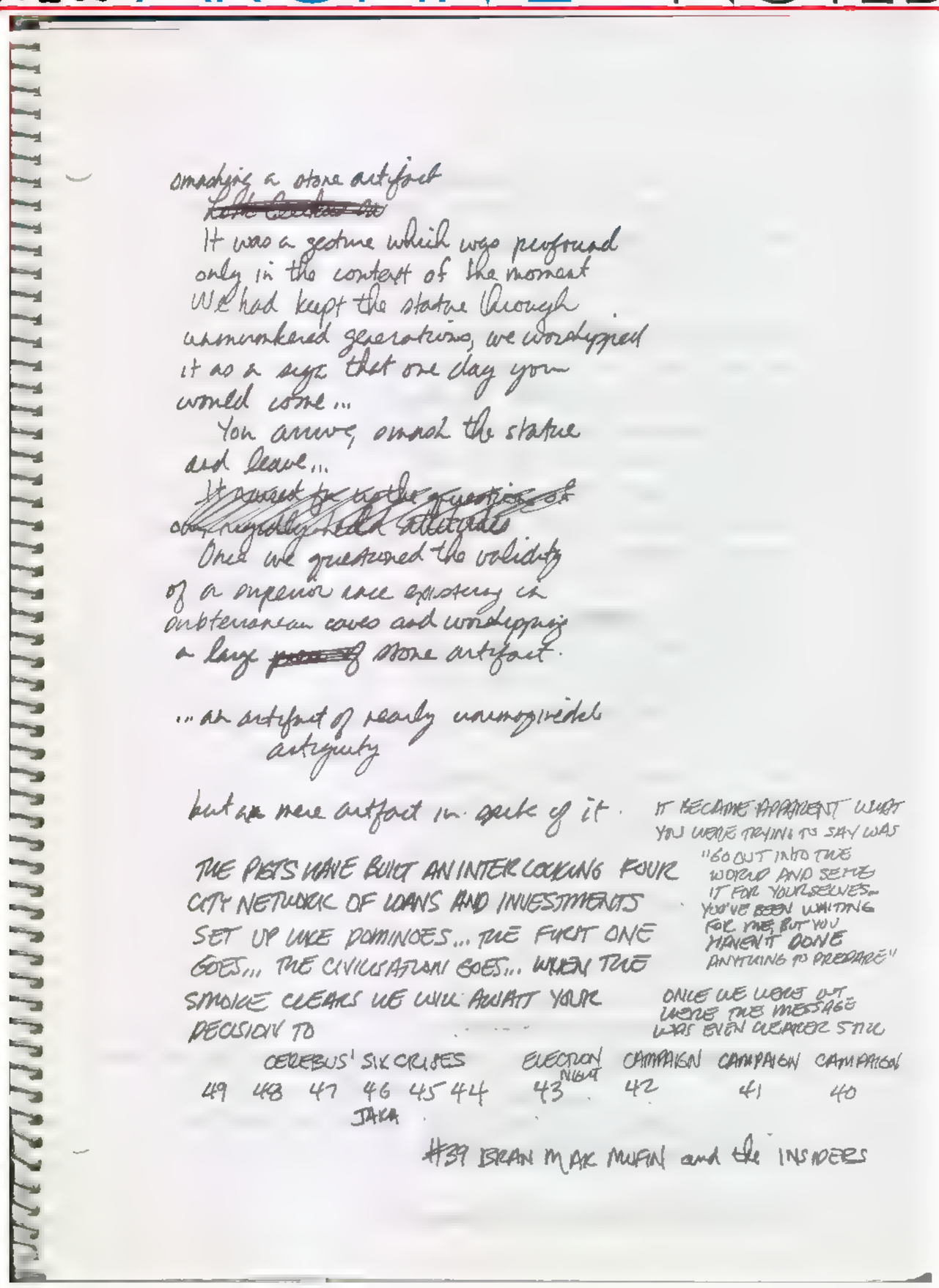
49 48 47 46 45 44 43 42 41 40

JAKA NIGHT

#39 BRAN MAK MUFIN and the INSIDERS

HSANB 15/38 - This next part seems both paranoid and prescient considering the upheaval in the world economy in the early years of the 21st century. This first passage, I thought, was particularly good:
BRAN: It was a society built on [the] real exchange of theoretical currency and the theoretical exchange of real currency...

continued...



analysing a stone artefact
~~[illegible]~~
It was a gesture which was profound
only in the context of the moment
We had kept the statue through
unremembered generations, we worshipped
it as a sign that one day you
would come ...
You arrive, smash the statue
and leave ...
~~It paved for another generation of~~
~~[illegible]~~
Once we questioned the validity
of a supreme race existing in
subterranean caves and worshipping
a large ~~piece of~~ stone artefact.

... an artefact of nearly unimaginable
antiquity

but a mere artefact in spite of it.

IT BECAME APPARENT WHAT YOU WERE TRYING TO SAY WAS "GO OUT INTO THE WORLD AND SEE IT FOR YOURSELVES... YOU'VE BEEN WAITING FOR ME, BUT YOU HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING TO PREPARE"

THE PIGTS HAVE BUILT AN INTERLOCKING FOUR CITY NETWORK OF LOANS AND INVESTMENTS SET UP LIKE DOMINOES... THE FIRST ONE GOES... THE CIVILISATION GOES... WHEN THE SMOKE CLEARS WE WILL AWAIT YOUR DECISION TO

ONCE WE WERE OUT WHERE THE MESSAGE WAS EVEN CLEARER STILL

CEREBUS' SIX ORBITS

49 48 47 46 JAKA 45 44 — ELECTION NIGHT 43 — CAMPAIGN 42 — CAMPAIGN 41 — CAMPAIGN 40

#39 BRAN MAK MUFIN and the INSIDERS

I couldn't figure out where I had gotten lost in this next passage. In retrospect it should be "arranged the theoretical exchange of that currency for theoretical currency":
BRAN: We accumulated immense quantities of real currency [and] arranged the theoretical exchange of that currency for more real currency which we then traded at some theoretical future date for real assets – gold, land, food, weapons.

I crossed out these passages because I had lost the thread of what I was driving at:
BRAN: With each new a[c]quisition we were invited to purchase real items we could pay for at some theoretical future date[.]

BRAN: We now control substantial quantities of real assets, but we are completely without the real currency to.

I decided to try again:
BRAN: For the past year, we have been engaged in the systematic buying of everything that is for sale and re-selling it to each other with completion of payments projected for some theoretical date far in the future.

Essentially what I was attempting to do was to lay the groundwork for the Pigts developing a "futures market" as a means of sabotaging the economic system in place. They would buy from and sell to each other, moving the economy forward in time, artificially inflating prices with "too optimistic" future promises of purchase and then at a point in time designated by them, pulling the plug with mass "short-selling" and thereby bringing the whole of Estarcion's economic system crashing down. The comedy would come in when it didn't work: that a futures market bolsters a capitalist economy. That even when it crashes, fortunes are made which are then used to buy up the most lucrative remaining pieces and building still greater fortunes with them.

The law of unintended consequences: Cerebus had smashed the basis for their belief system, so, being unable to just let go of that belief system, they felt compelled to adjust themselves to its destruction. They perceived the need to see what belief system was dominant – capitalism – and when they saw it, they needed to smash it themselves thinking that would allow the restoration of their previous belief system. Of course, that required them getting to that point before the end of the as-yet unnamed and only vaguely plotted CHURCH & STATE I when the Pigts would finally run out of room. How many pages would it take to fully develop the idea and would the comedic payoff be worth it? Ultimately, I decided no. I was still thinking I had a virtually unlimited number of pages in which I could develop a virtually unlimited number of ideas. It's an illusion of which I was fast being disabused. But this is what Bran Mak Mufin was up to behind the scenes when he showed up at the Regency.

IT WAS A SOCIETY BUILT ON ~~THEORETICAL~~
REAL EXCHANGE OF THEORETICAL CURRENCY
AND THE THEORETICAL EXCHANGE OF
REAL CURRENCY....

~~SO MUCH SO FAST~~ WE ACCUMULATED
IMMENSE QUANTITIES OF REAL CURRENCY
~~EXCHANGED~~ THE THEORETICAL EXCHANGE
OF THAT CURRENCY FOR MORE REAL
CURRENCY WHICH WE THEN TRADED
AT SOME THEORETICAL FUTURE DATE
FOR REAL ~~E~~ ASSETS -- GOLD, LAND, FOOD,
~~PRECIOUS~~, WEAPONS

~~WITH~~ EACH ~~[redacted]~~ NEW AQUISITION
WE WERE INVITED TO PURCHASE REAL
ITEMS WE COULD PAY FOR AT SOME
THEORETICAL FUTURE DATE

WE NOW CONTROL SUBSTANTIAL QUANTITIES
OF REAL ASSETS, BUT WE HAVE COMPLETELY
WITHOUT THE REAL CURRENCY TO

FOR THE PAST YEAR, WE HAVE
BEEN ENGAGED IN THE SYSTEMATIC
BUYING ~~OF~~ OF EVERYTHING THAT IS
FOR SALE AND RESELLING IT ~~ON~~
~~TWO YEARS CREDIT AT INTEREST~~
~~INTEREST RATES~~ TO EACH OTHER WITH COMPLETION OF PAYMENTS
~~WORKING~~ PROJECTED FOR SOME
~~COLLAPSE AND WE CAN FORECLOSE~~ THEORETICAL DATE FAR
IN THE FUTURE

~~WE DON'T CREDIT HERE TO BE WILDERNESS~~

HSANB 16/38 - Rough dialogue for K'Cor as moderator for the "Graft: Boon or Blessing" panel. The barbarian king being enlisted for the task by Lord Julius was intended to resonate with the Pigts changing from idol-worshipping barbarians in their underground city to manipulators of the economic system. All of it set in motion by the "magnifier" Cerebus choosing to enter the Regency Hotel. Most of his effects were inadvertent but most of them were profound.

AUREAL LONES OF SEVERAL YEARS

K'COR - Strong sword arms... dedication to the eradication of anyone who comes near you ... It is good to see Iest doing the hard realities of this world... If you can't hold them at the walls, no amount of paperwork is going to help

they are enemies until proven friendly

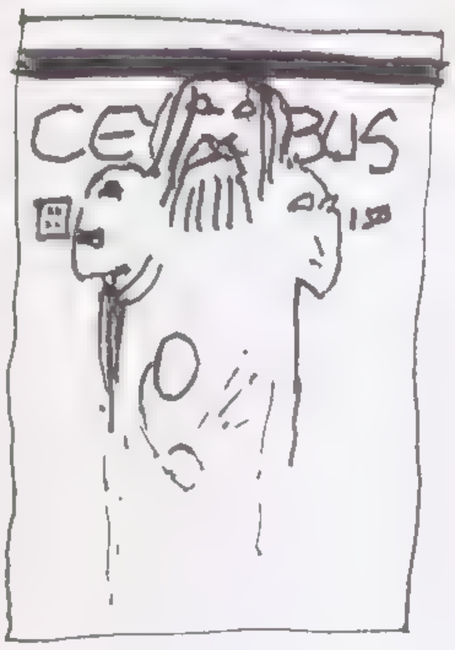
you have chosen a king...

introducing his son

LORD JULIUS starts ~~talking~~ K'COR amplifies it with a phrase to make it grandiose.

uh... yeah

" HIGH SOCIETY"



38 MAY 39 JUN PENUMBACON DAY TWO CHALLENGE IS ELROD

ASTORIA gets him in line

BRAN MAK MUFIN: We're ready to pull the whole thing down.

CEREBUS talks to the insiders.

40 JUL 41 AUG 42 SEP CEREBUS and the LOCAL CANDIDATES AND THE PARTY BIG WIGS, ADVISORS. never in hostile

I'm forced to question how would territory that reflect on the candidates.

We have to formulate an opinion for the candidate on the issue of Tigeton border raids

43 OCT ELECTION NIGHT RETURNS... returns keep flopping one way and another.

BRAN MAK MUFIN: Do you want me to spring the trapdoor?

44 NOV CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #1

Astoria's tea

45 DEC CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #2

46 JAN CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #3

47 FEB CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #4

48 MAR CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #5

49 APR CEREBUS' SIX CRISES #6

50 MAY

HSANB 17/38 - Starting to map out the rest of HIGH SOCIETY (again). Note I still had "BRAN MAK MUFIN: We're ready to pull the whole thing down" as a point form development in the plot [see HSANB 15/38] in No.39 and in the "Election Night" story in No.43 ("BRAN MAK MUFIN: Do you want me to spring the trap[-]door?").
Cover sketch for No.38.

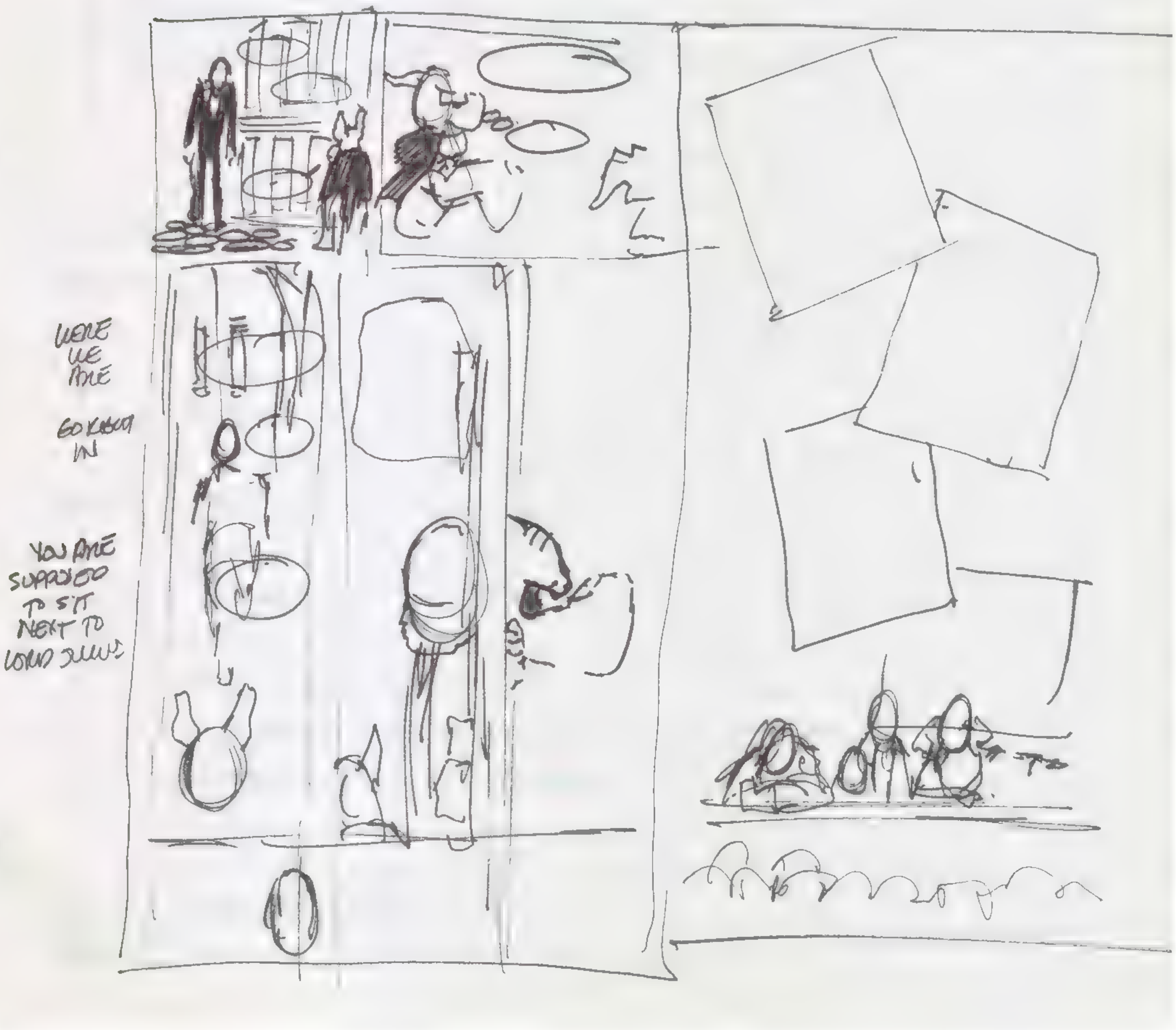
CRISIS #2: If you try to pass that legislation, the Kevillists and CIRINISTS will disown you & want to meet someone in charge then

CRISIS #3 ... Mind Game III

HSANB 18/38 - "CRISIS #2: [ASTORIA:] If you try to pass that legislation, the Kevillists and Cirinists will disown you. [CEREBUS: Cerebus] wants to meet someone in charge then.

Sketch of Astoria as a Joan of Arc figure which I wouldn't get to until late in CHURCH & STATE II.

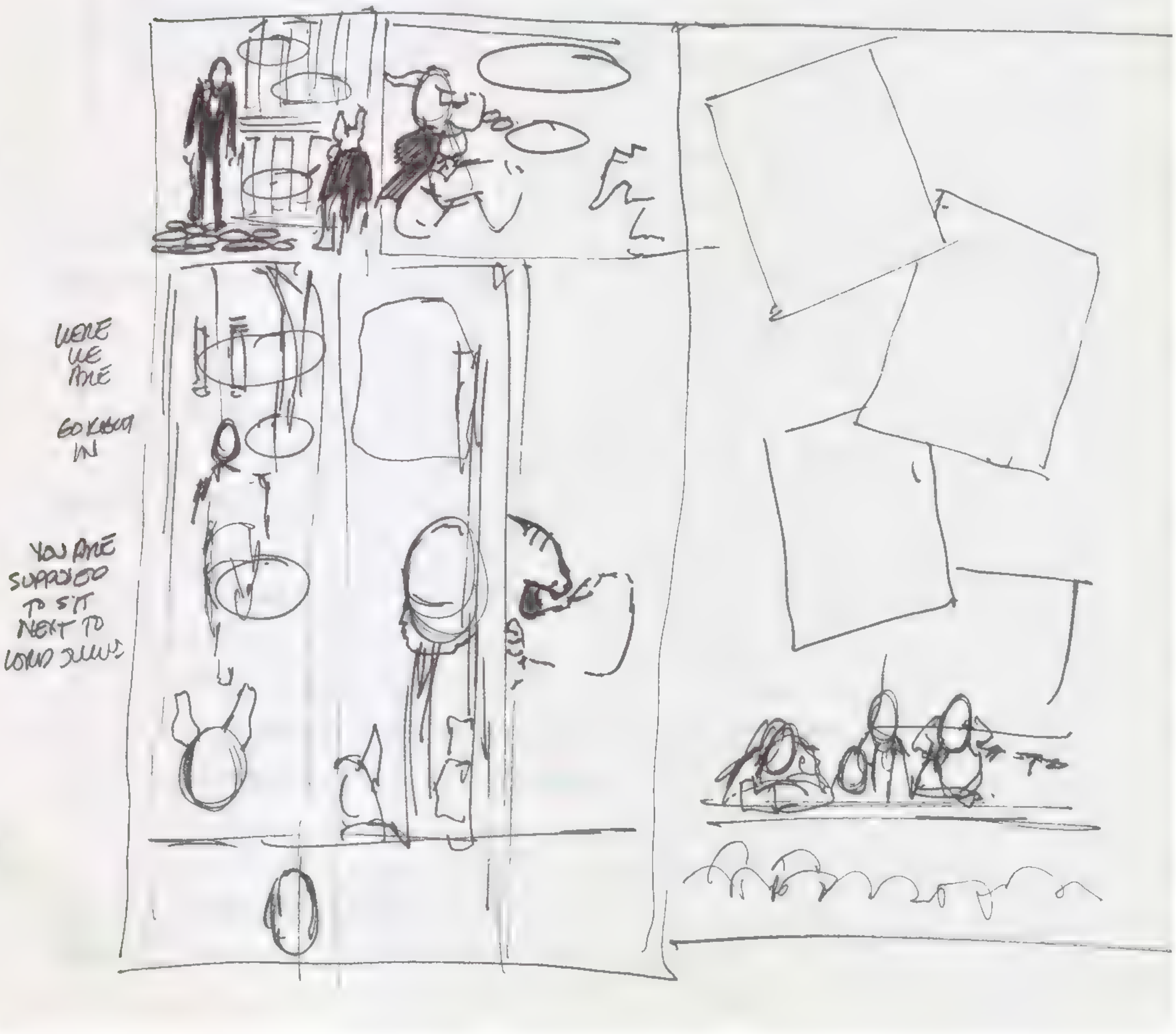
KEVILISTS - ISHTAR WORSHIPPERS
-REQUIRED SEXUAL SACRIFICE
ONCE IN LIFETIME TEMPLE OF ISHTAR
- LOWER CLASS WOMEN WHO OWNED LAND
CIRIN - WRITES TREATISE, CONVERTS FEMALES OF THE
ARISTOCRACY AT TEMPLE OF TERIM
- GRADUALLY ENGINEERS SUCCESSION OF PRIESTS
TO POSITION OF AUTHORITY; CRISIS; INTERPOSES HER
WILL, HAVE TO BE SWAYED BY A WOMAN;
- SWITCHES TO POWER SWAYED BY MOTHERS
—KEVILLIST FROM ANTI-MATRIARCHY UNDERGROUND
-KEY IS TO FIND AN CITY FACING A CRISIS



HSANB 19/38 - "Kevillists- Ishtar worshippers - require sexual sacrifice [that is as temple prostitutes] once in [their] lifetime [at the] Temple of Ishtar - lower class women who owned land[.]'
"Cirin - writes treatise[s], converts females of the [Estarcion] Aristocracy at Temple of Terim - gradually engineers succession of [Cirinist-influenced] priests to position[s] of authority [in the Eastern Church];

continued...

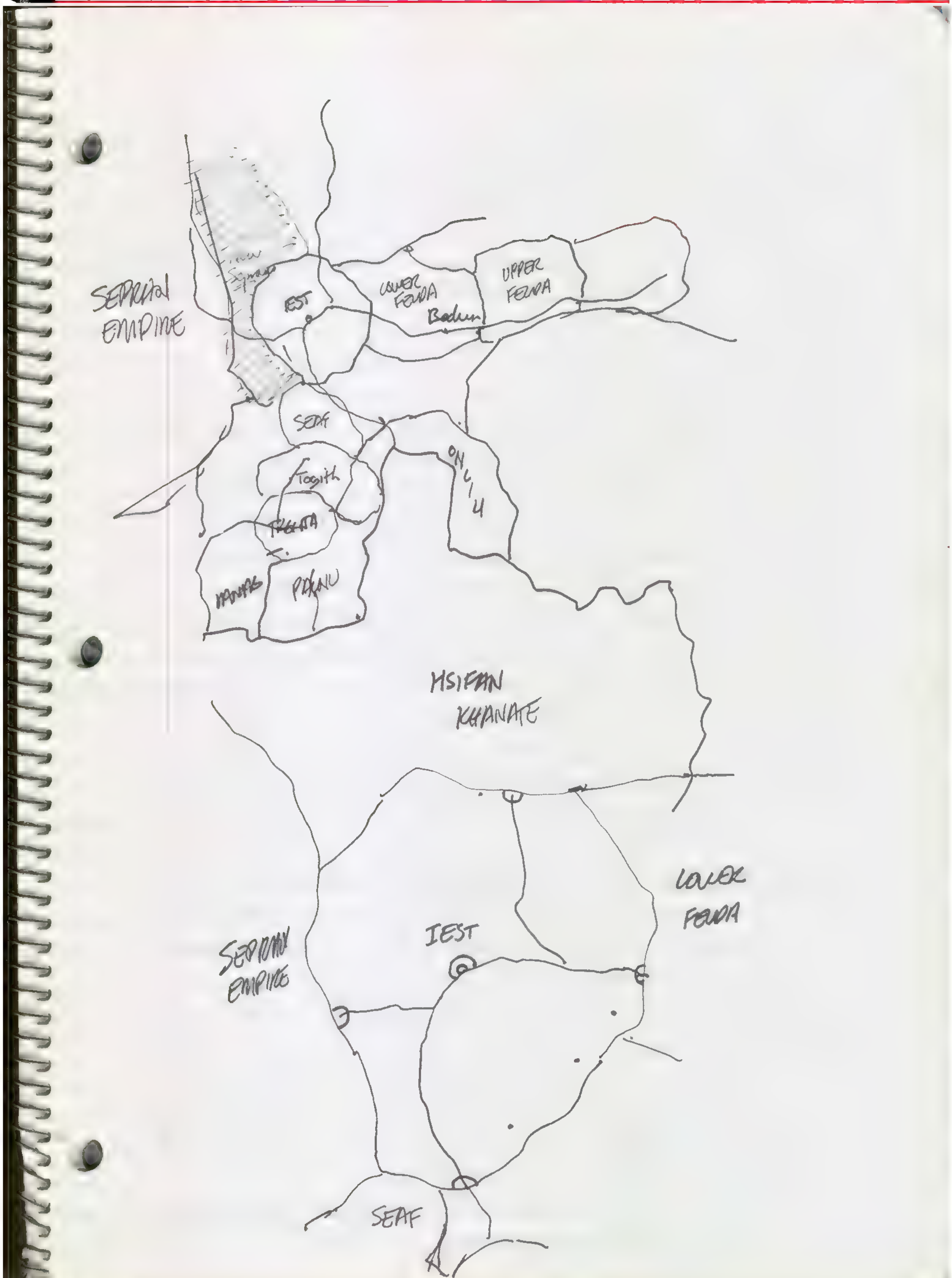
KEVILISTS - ISHTAR WORSHIPPERS
-REQUIRED SEXUAL SACRIFICE
ONCE IN LIFETIME TEMPLE OF ISHTAR
-LOWER CLASS WOMEN (WHO OWNED LAND)
CIRIN - WRITES TREATISE, CONVERTS FEMALES OF THE
ARISTOCRACY AT TEMPLE OF TERLIM
-GRADUALLY ENGINEERS SUCCESSION OF PRIESTS
TO POSITION OF AUTHORITY; CRISIS; INTERPOSES HER
WILL, RULE TO BE SHARED BY ALL WOMEN;
- SWITCHES TO POWER SHARED BY MOTHERS
—KEVILLISTS FORM ANTI-MATRIARCHY UNDERGROUND
-KEY IS TO FIND ANY CITY FACING A CRISIS



Crisis; Interposes her will: rule to be shared by all women; switches to power shared [only] by mothers [which leads to:] Kevillists form[ing] anti-Matriarchy underground - key is to find any city facing a crisis" – which is what Cirin and Astoria are doing in lest, which is definitely a city facing a crisis
Rough sketches of pages 5 and 6.

(Ranking diplomatic representative enters through side entrance
Representative: ~~I'd like to ask Lord Julius~~
I'd like to ask His Highness King K'cor
if he thinks Dest ~~could~~ would stand an attack
from the Hsifan Khanate.
K'cor: ~~Only a fool~~ Walls do not defend a
city! (louder) Soldiers do not ~~of~~ defend a
city! BUREAUCRATS CANNOT DEFEND A CITY!
(~~some spontaneous~~ applause) A KING
DEFENDS HIS CITY -- AND - EL-ROD - IS - A - KING
(pounding water jug after splashing representatives
in the front row) EL-ROD! EL-ROD! EL-ROD
Representatives (chanting) EL-ROD! EL-ROD! EL-ROD
El-rod: Please -- I say -- Please - Y'all are embarrassing
me. But it reminds me of a story -- a joke
that is...
(room grows quiet)
Someone asked the prime minister what he
would do if two thousand Hsifans came smashing
into the legislature armed to the teeth and screaming
war chants...
(murmuring)
And the prime minister said.. "that would all
depend on which way they intended to vote.."
(sustained laughter and applause chanting resumes)
EL-ROD! EL-ROD! EL-ROD!
CEREBUS: Cerebus has a better joke (cries of "sit down"
etc.) (pulls lining out of jacket pockets and holds
arms out to his side) What's this? (pauses) I got
~~broke~~ renegotiating Ler Loan payments.
(Sudden silence ~~that~~ broken by ~~occasional~~ angry
muttering)
EL-ROD: It looks -- I say -- It looks more like Astoria
paying your hotel bill ~~for you~~. to me, son
(sustained applause and loud laughter chant resumes)
EL-ROD EL-ROD - EL-ROD

HSANB 20/38 - Transcript for page 6-7.



HSANB 21/38 - I had to go back and research my own book to do a map of the area around lest and a detail of lest preparatory to building an electoral map for the city-state for the "Campaign" issues.

REPRESENTANE: I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to reduce the interest payments on debt outstanding selectively loans

LORD JULIUS: I'm sorry -- you'd have to speak up, I'm ~~incontinently~~ hard of hearing

REPRESENTATIVE: THE INTEREST PAYMENTS on IEST'S LOANS.

Lord Julius: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE: Yes what?

Lord Julius: Pardon?

REPRESENTATIVE: YES WHAT?

Lord Julius: ~~Lord~~ (to Cerebus) Did he say "Guess what?"

REPRESENTIVE: YOU SAID "YES," AND I WAS ASKING WHAT YOU WERE SAYING "YES" IN REFERENCE TO!!

Lord Julius: Would you mind keeping it down, I'm trying to talk to this unemployed bureaucrat here!

REPRESENTATIVE. I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO REDUCE THE INTEREST ON IEST'S LOANS

Lord Julius: I'm sorry. Someone already asked that question

REPRESENTATIVE: I ASKED THAT QUESTION...

Lord Julius: Then you already had your turn. Next?

REPRESENTATIVE: I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to use Palnu's resources to keep Iest from bankruptcy.

Lord Julius: I'm pleased to announce that after extensive examination of the Treasury Building and the Bank of Iest wing that there is no sign of bankruptcy anywhere. Next?

REPRESENTATIVE: NOT. BANK RUPTURE. BANK RUPTCY.

Lord Julius: There hasn't been an outbreak of ruptcy since the Blood Wars started.

REPRESENTATIVE: Taking into account the fact that Cerebus has never been defeated in combat I'd like to ask His Highness why he never attacked them while living in Lower Felda.

HSANB 22/38 - Transcript for pages 6-7 including this rejected exchange:
REPRESENTATIVE: I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to use Palnu's resources to keep Iest from bankruptcy.
LORD JULIUS: I'm pleased to announce that, after extensive examination of the Treasury Building and the Bank of Iest wing that there is no sign of bank rupture anywhere. Next?

continued...

REPRESENTANE: I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to reduce the interest payments on debt outstanding selectively loans

LORD JULIUS: I'm sorry -- you'd have to speak up, I'm ~~[illegible]~~ partly ~~deaf~~ hard of hearing

REPRESENTATIVE: THE INTEREST PAYMENTS on IEST'S LOANS.

Lord Julius: Yes.

REPRESENTATIVE: Yes what?

Lord Julius: Pardon?

REPRESENTATIVE: YES WHAT?

Lord Julius: ~~Just~~ (to Cerebus) Did he say "Guess what?"

REPRESENTIVE: YOU SAID "YES," AND I WAS ASKING WHAT YOU WERE SAYING "YES" IN REFERENCE TO!!

Lord Julius: Would you mind keeping it down, I'm trying to talk to this unemployed bureaucrat here!

REPRESENTATIVE. I WANT TO KNOW IF YOU INTEND TO REDUCE THE INTEREST ON IEST'S LOANS

Lord Julius: I'm sorry. Someone already asked that question

REPRESENTATIVE: I ASKED THAT QUESTION...

Lord Julius: Then you already had your turn. Next?

REPRESENTATIVE: I'd like to ask Lord Julius if he intends to use Palmer's resources to keep Iest from bankruptcy.

Lord Julius: I'm pleased to announce that after extensive examination of the Treasury Building and the bankruptcy Bank of Iest using that there is no sign of ~~rupture~~ anywhere. Next?

REPRESENTATIVE: Not BANK RUPTURE. BANK RUPTCY.

Lord Julius: There hasn't been an outbreak of ruptcy since the Blood Wars started.

REPRESENTATIVE: Taking into account the fact that Cerebus has never been defeated in combat I'd like to ask His Highness why he never attacked them while living in Lower Felda. Hsifoes

REPRESENTATIVE: Not bank RUPTURE. Bank RUPTCY,

LORD JULIUS: There [also] hasn't been an outbreak of ruptcy since the Blood Wars started.

There was a good joke in there somewhere – the idea that there was a communicable disease called "ruptcy" was good but it needed to be emphasized as a disease or plague – but it needed too much work to excavate and remodel when the rest of it was just landing on the page.

EVROD: ~~Well~~ Well, son... I look at it this way -- it takes a strong man to walk away from a fight....
(applause)
EVROD: And it takes an even stronger man to win that fight
(more applause)
EVROD: And it takes an even stronger man to win that fight and then walk away
(more applause, shouting, whistles)
EVROD: And it takes an even stronger man to win that fight, walk away and then come back and win it again.
(applause)
EVROD: And... uh... so on. Etcetera, that is
K'CHAIR: (pounding water jug) ETCET-RA ETCET-RA
Representatives ETCET-RA ETCET-RA ETCET-RA

REPRESENTATIVE: Do you plan to resume trade with Iest in light of recent events
LORD JULIUS: Yes. I plan to trade IEST to the Sepran Empire in exchange for ~~TEGITH~~ SERREA and future considerations
REPRESENTATIVES: You plan to trade Iest to the Sepranes?
LORD JULIUS: How did you know?... That's supposed to be top secret! Guards arrest that man.
REPRESENTATIVE: LORD JULIUS! I PROTEST.
LORD JULIUS: In that case let him go and have him repeat the question
REPRESENTATIVE: Do you intend to trade ~~the~~ this city
LORD JULIUS: Oh ~~that's~~ to what you said... I thought you asked me what I would give you for IEST. in trade
REPRESENTATIVE: I would never sell my city into slavery.
LORD JULIUS: That's why I ~~offered you Iest~~ threw in the future considerations. Next

HSANB 23/38 - More finished panel transcripts.

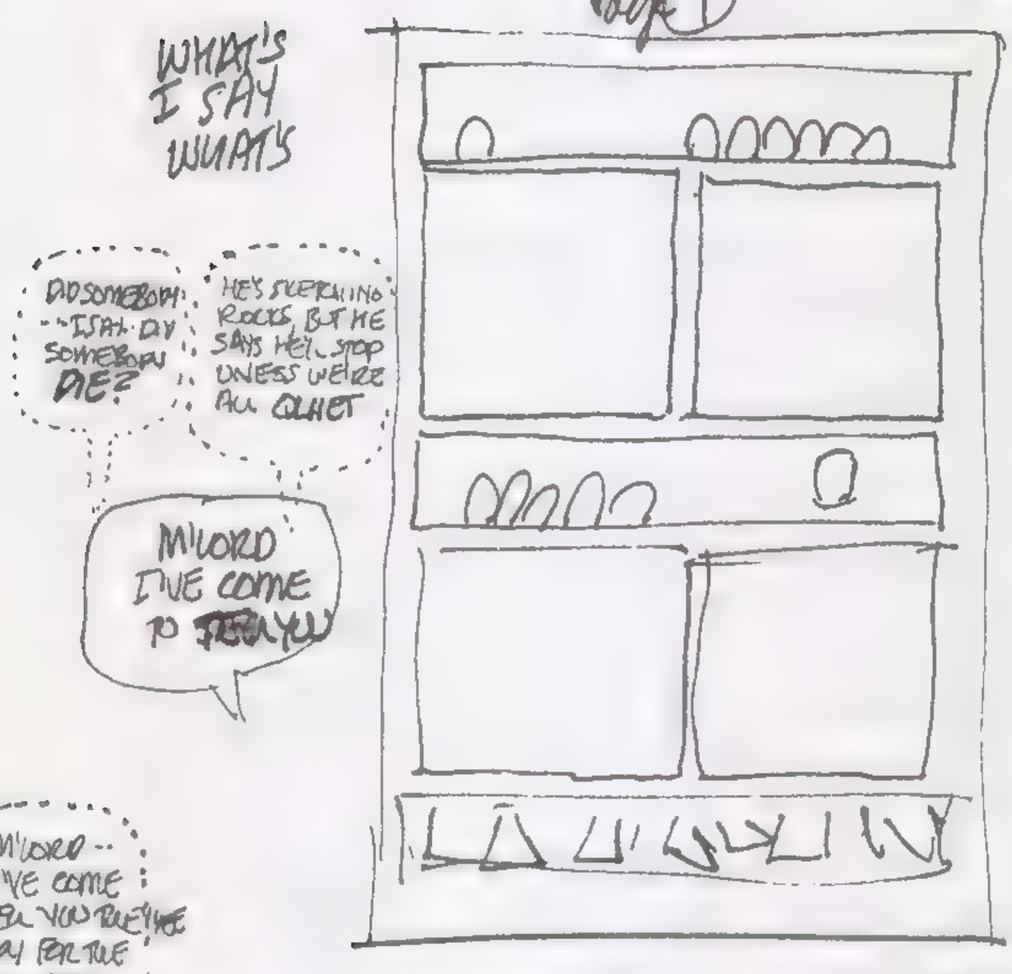
REPRESENTATIVE Lord Julius -- Is you intend to reduce Iksts interest payments... please answer yes or no...

Lord Julius: Gee we just ran out of time. Why don't you drop by the hospitality room and if I'm not there we can talk about it.

concludes transcript

Page 9

relay key comment to the Kolinas


WHAT'S I SAY WHAT'S
DID SOMEBODY SAY SOMEBODY DIE?
HE'S SLEEPING ROCKS, BUT HE SAYS HEY, STOP UNLESS WE'RE ALL QUIET
M'LORD I'VE COME TO TELL YOU
M'LORD -- I'VE COME TO TELL YOU THAT WE'RE READY FOR THE NEXT PANEL
SHHH!
SHHH!!
THE NEXT-- I SAY THE NEXT PANEL?
IS ELROD ON IT?
UHUH, YES!
WAHOO! OUTTA MY WAY! I'M GOING TO BE AT THE FRONT THIS TIME

REPRESENTATIVE I'd like to ask each of the panelists to ~~Reagan Memo for Listening Politics Use.~~ what they attribute their success

~~Klein~~ I beg never a politician a ~~Democrat~~ an controller
I control people, events, places, things

CEREBUS: (Walking into the right hotel)
(scattered chuckling)

LORD JULIUS: I attribute my success to ~~watching Reagan~~ ambition, determination, guts, integrity, fairness honesty and having enough money to buy people with those qualities

HSANB 24/38 - More finished panel transcripts and lettering notes and page composition for page 9.

ELROD Chuckles! Why, I suppose it sounds corny, but I guess clean living, royal blood and the mightiest sword in all Estarcion is what makes me the unqualified success I am today.

(Cerebus makes choking noises drowned out by chants of Elrod Elrod and much applause and stamping)

K'CHAK: I am successful because I am the only one in my city who is not heavily addicted to powerful narcotics.

LORD JULIUS: You could call it success by default.

K'chak's idea of graft is to ~~bet them~~ agree not to kill someone if you want him to do something for you

Everyone exits after Lord Julius announces that Elrod will be doing sketches in his hospitality room. J. says it to forestall criticism in a question

Craft: book or blessing transcript page ~~six~~ seven eight nine

#39 PETUNIACON DAY THREE

THE AMBASSADOR SUITE

HSANB 25/38 - Rough panel transcripts.

~~Lord Julius: I think I may be certain that~~

K'cor: In my city there is only one kind of graft. You do exactly what I want you to and you will be rewarded with narcotics and food and ~~allowed to live~~ be permitted to live.

Lord Julius: You'd have to go a long ways to find a better ~~guy~~ than that.

Elrod: Personally, I feel... I say... I feel that the average man in the street, or legislature ... needs more than that

(some applause.)

Lord Julius: Like what?

Elrod: Like a guaranteed pension for five or more years of government service

(applause and cheers)

Elrod: Like reduced taxes for government employees

(applause and cheers)

Lord Julius: The average man in the street sounds a little expensive ~~to maintain~~ Do you have anything in a below average?

Elrod: Now -- I say -- how about the kid in the kimmy suit.

(laughter and applause)

K'cor: The citizen of a city showed be grateful his worthless life is spared by his benevolent sovereign. Grant him any more than that and he becomes soft! Flabby!

(nervous coughs in the audience).

Lord Julius: Baskin -- make a note to offer this man whatever he wants to become Ranking Diplomatic Representative to Eshnaspazia

~~Lord Julius~~:

Baskin: Yes, Lord Julius

that all the spies from Eshnosopeu have had coronaries

L.J. Now we'll take some questions from the audience

Rep: I'd like to ask Mr. Baskin what life is like in the government of Palnu.

& (long pause)

LJ. Baskin!

B Lord Julius?

LJ The the nice man asked you a question

B Who? Me?!

LJ. the "mister" part threw him for a minute

B: Life in the government of Palnu?

LJ. You can leave out the part about you-know-what.

B. You know what?

LJ. The you-know what that we were talking about when you-know-who came into the room you-know-where.

B: Oh. Well aside from that it's very nice.

LJ. The dream of stealth in government makes on. Next?

Rep. Is graft really necessary? Perhaps all of the panelists could address the issue. How necessary is graft?

Cerebus: Graft is as necessary as throwing up when you drunk too much

LJ- He really knows how to turn a phrase doesn't he?

C: I think I know what the boy is driving at... implying that is. We don't like graft, but sometimes... I say... sometimes you have to grease the wheels.

LJ. Or they squeak too much

K'ior: In my city when wheels squeak we hit them with a hammer until they stop

LJ. On second thought recall him in as chief negotiator for the Public Service contract negotiations in Palnu.

Baskin. I think graft is necessary for government officials who are unhappy with their position unlike government officials like me who like their position and don't want anything else

HSANB 27/38 - Finished panel transcript.

LJ. Make a note to cancel your ~~pay~~ cut in pay.
Rook Yes, Lord Julius. Thank you, Lord Julius
LJ: Next question.
Rep What I want to know is why nobody pays any graft to Parliaments (?) Doesn't anybody worry about their ship (sp.) meeting with slight accidents?
LJ. What did you have in mind.
Rep Well, just as an example, for instance, those five merchant ships from Palmer in the Parliament right now. What if they was to, like, all of a sudden, sink, like.
LJ. You think that's possible?
Rep Well, I ain't no shipbuilder, but if a crew of dockworkers don't ~~like~~ right away go out and fix the holes that are about to appear below the waterline, I would say it's not only possible but, ahy inevitable?
LJ. How much do you suppose the crew of dock workers would need to fix these inevitable holes
Rep They is awfully big holes (possibly)
LJ. How about two hundred crowns
Rep They would ~~also~~ have to as well, be thoroughly tarred
LJ. I know exactly how they feel. Three hundred
Rep ~~Yeah~~ Yes. That would about cover it.
LJ. Pleasure doing business with you
Rep Likewise, I'm sure.
LJ. Next question.
Rep: ~~I would like to know what Lord Julius the Grandson of Palmer intends to do about~~.
I would like to know if Lord Julius ~~would like to~~ intends ~~to be~~ to ensure that his ships pass safely through my riding of Harbourgate West by financing inspection of the Honourable Member's ~~for the Harbourfront~~ repair of the inevitable holes mentioned earlier.
LJ. Perhaps K'ion my ~~Minister~~ temporary Minister for Naval Blackmail would like to answer that question

HSANB 28/38 - Finished panel transcript.

DAVE SIM
CEREBUS
DAVE SIM
HIGH SOCIETY
church tate
church tate
JAKA STORY
MELMOTH
FLIGHT
WOMEN
READS
MINDS
GUYS
RICK'S STORY
GOING HOME
FARM VOID
CUTTER DAYS
THE LAST DAY